

## Klitsel due on state visit next week

AMMAN (J.T.) — Upon the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, Dr. Thomas Klitsel, the president of the Federal Republic of Austria, will be paying a state visit to the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan, the International Press Office of the Royal Palace said Monday. President Klitsel will be staying in Jordan from April 11-13, it said. President Klitsel paid a private visit to Jordan in September and during that visit the King invited him to pay a state visit. The King visited Austria in January on his return home from the United States after medical check-ups and talks with President Bill Clinton.

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## Draft laws on elections, districts in the works

AMMAN (J.T.) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammad said Monday that special committees were drawing up a draft law on elections and another on new administrative divisions concerning different districts.

Speaking during a visit by Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali to the Interior Ministry, where he chaired part of a meeting attended by provincial governors, Mr. Hammad said that social developments and other factors have necessitated redrawing of administrative divisions in Jordan.

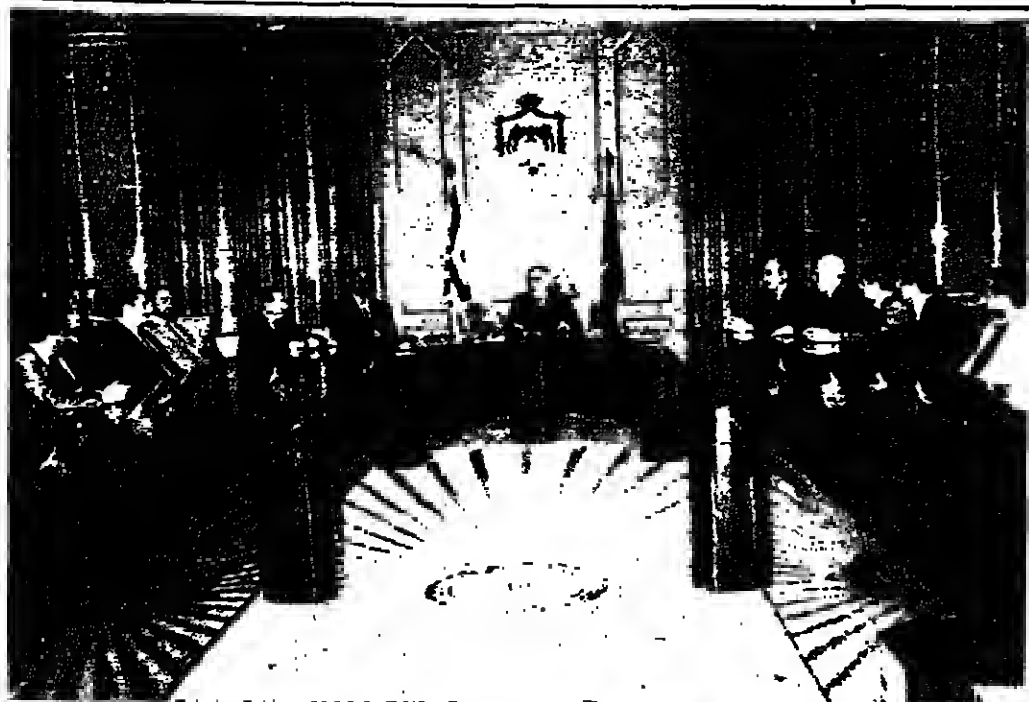
The Civil Status and Passports Department has been entrusted with redrawing voters lists, fixing the optional code number against each voter's name and preparing election cards, Mr. Hammad said.

Dr. Majali, who was briefed on the two draft laws, discussed with provincial governors a number of issues related to their districts.

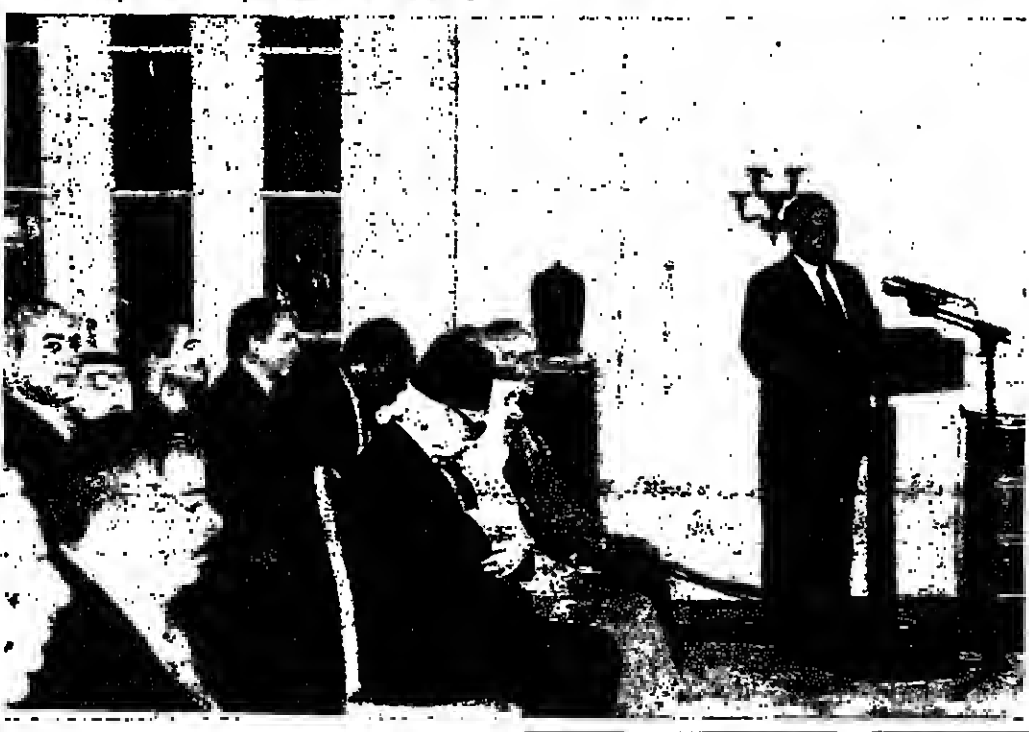
"Serving the inhabitants in their own region is this government's objective because this enhances the concept of decentralisation," Dr. Majali said. "Decentralisation will save the citizen and the state a great deal of effort and unneeded expenses," he said.

According to the present administrative divisions, Jordan has 20 electoral districts but each has varying numbers of seats in Parliament.

The present Election Law, introduced in 1986, was amended in August of last year when the one-person, one-vote system was introduced by the government in the absence of Parliament.



His Majesty King Hussein on Monday meets with some of the Palestinian expellees expected to return home today (above) and (below) a delegation representing Hebronites living in Jordan (Petra photo)



## King reaffirms support for Palestinians, voices confidence justice will prevail

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan will continue to provide support to the Palestinian people under occupation and is confident that right and justice will be realised and the Palestinian lands will be liberated, His Majesty King Hussein said Monday.

The King made the comments in two separate meetings, one with a delegation representing the West Bank town of Hebron and the other with a group of Palestinian expellees poised to return home after Israel gave them permission following years in exile.

In the meeting at the Royal

Court, the expellees thanked King Hussein for the good care and hospitality accorded to them while in Jordan and voiced their pride in and appreciation to His Majesty's honourable pan-Arab stands towards the Palestinian people.

King Hussein expressed pride in the steadfastness of the kinsmen in the occupied territories and their attachment to their land.

"The suffering of our kinsmen in the occupied territories and their sacrifices will herald, God willing, a new dawn for the Arab Nation," the King said.

Addressing the delegation representing the citizens of Hebron, King Hussein said: "It is our duty to extend assistance to our brothers and we will continue to do so until the Palestinian people regain their rights and freedom."

"National unity is not only necessary in the face of adversity but it is a duty for all of us. We can have no alternative but to confront the dangers and the challenges together."

Referring to the Feb. 25 Hebron Mosque massacre, King Hussein said: "We are destined to offer sacrifices for the sake of our homeland and

this is an honour in us all.

"The Jordanian people will remain loyal to their kinsmen in the occupied territory under all circumstances quite confident that Arab rights will be regained," he said.

The King expressed his delight at meeting with the delegation and his pride in their national and courageous stand on their national soil and their steadfastness in the face of the challenges posed by the Israeli occupation.

He stressed that the Palestinian people's sacrifices were offered in defence of

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## Israel vetoes return of 3 Arafat aides; other expellees return home today

By Mariam M. Shahin  
 Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A last-minute veto by Israel prevented the return of three Palestinian expellees close to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat from joining 45 other expellees who return to the occupied territories today.

Scaled down from a list of 49 whom Israel was allowing to return as part of an agreement with the PLO, the 43 expellees, along with up to 25 family members, will enter the West Bank and Gaza today via Jordan and Egypt.

"Twenty-seven deportees will leave Jordan for the occupied territories on Tuesday," confirmed Omar Khatib, deputy chief to the PLO's mission in Amman. "They will take their families with them. The other 16 deportees in Egypt will en-

ter Gaza from Egypt, also on Tuesday," Mr. Khatib added.

Two expellees allowed to return to the West Bank by Israel left to the occupied territories on Monday on their own and another, Mursi Abu Ghweileb, is in the United States and will return later, said officials at the PLO mission in Amman.

"The list we received today did not include the names of Akram Hanieh, Jibril Rajoub and Mohammad Dahlan," said Mr. Khatib.

The return to the occupied territories of Mr. Hanieh, senior advisor to Mr. Arafat on occupied territories' affairs, was reportedly blocked by Israeli negotiators in Cairo. "The Israelis felt that Hanieh was too senior, too close to Chairman Arafat to go in this early," one PLO official in Amman told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Rajoub and Mr. Dahlan are also close to the PLO leadership in Tunis, where they were until Monday night, according to PLO officials in Amman. They were seen by the Israelis as "too close to the leadership to return at this time," one official said.

"The three men are still in Tunis. Therefore we don't expect any last-minute changes," said Mr. Khatib.

Mr. Rajoub is from Hebron, where dozens of Palestinians were gunned down by a fanatic settler on Feb. 25. Mr. Dahlan directs Fatah military operation in his native Gaza Strip from his exile in Tunis.

All three men are expected to exercise influence on behalf of Mr. Arafat and his Fatah factions in their respective areas once they are allowed to return home. According to reports from

the occupied territories the popularity of Mr. Arafat has been waning since the Hebron massacre.

The final details of the return of 27 deportees, originally expected to begin Monday, was announced after Palestine Ambassador to Jordan Tayyeb Abdul Rahim briefed the would-be returnees at the PLO mission in Amman.

"We were told to bring all our identification papers, passports if we have any," said one deportee as he left the PLO mission.

After the meeting, 20 deportees were asked to attend a special farewell meeting with His Majesty King Hussein. Among the 10 were Palestine People's Party activist Tayseer Arouri and Fatah members Amin Ma-

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## Blaze in Amman hotel; heart attack kills 1

By a Jordan Times Staff reporter

AMMAN — A fire broke out at Amman's Forte Grand Hotel early Monday, forcing the evacuation of nearly 250 guests and more than 150 staff. An Italian guest was reported dead as a result of a heart attack he suffered while evacuating the eight-storey building following the blaze.

Officials said 12 people remained hospitalised Monday evening, and others who were injured or suffered smoke inhalation were discharged after first-aid treatment.

According to the officials and hotel executives, primary investigations have not found any indication of foul play and that the fire could have been started by a burning cigarette butt or electrical fault.

Tourism Minister Mohammad Al Adwan said the fire could have been catastrophic had the hotel not used fire-retardant material in its construction and furnishings.

Amman Kanaan, deputy general manager of the luxury hotel, said the fire broke out on the sitting area of the first floor at around 5.30 a.m. and was brought under control in one hour.

"The danger was not from the fire as much as it was from smoke," Mr. Kanaan told the Jordan Times. He dismissed as unsubstantiated rumours that an explosion had caused the fire, which was more or less confined to the floor where it started.

Colonel Mahmoud Abbadi, deputy chief of the Civil Defence Department (CDD), said the cause of fire, of which his department was notified at 5.33 a.m., was being investigated.

Charles Barker, the hotel's general manager, was quoted as saying by the Associated Press that initial inquiries had shown that the fire was caused by a burning cigarette carelessly tossed on the carpet. "It was in the hotel and I did not hear any explosion," Mr. Barker said, who was quoted as saying when asked about rumours of a blast. "None of

## King follows up on treatment of fire victims

HIS MAJESTY King Hussein on Monday telephoned the hospitals where victims of the fire at Forte Grand Hotel were being treated to inquire about the condition of the injured. He instructed that the best care be accorded to the injured.

Later Monday, King Hussein sent his private Chamberlain Prince Ali Ben Nayef to the Palestine Hospital and King Hussein Medical Centre where the blaze victims are being treated.

Prince Ali conveyed to them the greetings of King Hussein and his best wishes for their speedy recovery.

Health Minister Abdul Rahim Malhas visited also the injured in hospital and wished them speedy recovery.

Speaking to the press afterwards the minister said that most of the victims were suffering from mild cases of suffocation and most of the patients would be discharged soon.

the staff heard an explosion.

Mr. Kanaan said the death of one man, who was identified by Italian diplomats as Michele Ottorio, a tourist from Venice, was caused by a heart attack as he rushed out of his fourth-floor room with his wife.

"He was bleeding through his nose when he collapsed on the floor while rushing out," said Mr. Kanaan, adding that a medical report later established heart attack as the cause of death.

Nearly 400 people — about 240 guests and the rest staff — were inside the hotel when the blaze started. All the guests were immediately evacuated to other Amman hotels such as the Marriott and Intercontinental, Mr. Kanaan said.

Most of the guests were tourists on Easter vacation from Italy, Spain, Britain, Russia and the United States. Reports that at least one guest jumped out of his win-

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Charred furniture and furnishings after Monday's fire at Amman's Forte Grand Hotel (photo by Youssef Al 'Allan)

## Unmatching shell boosts theory that Goldstein had accomplice

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Reinforcing the theory that a second gunman might have participated in the Hebron mosque massacre, a police weapons expert said Monday that one bullet shell found at the site was fired by a Galil rifle they have not found.

Inspector Lior Nativ of the national police said the mysterious shell was one of 115 bullet casings collected by forensic experts after the Feb. 25 shooting rampage when a Jewish settler killed dozens of worshippers at the Ibrahimi Mosque.

Tests showed that 109 were fired by the Galil rifle used by gunman Baruch Goldstein. Another five were fired by soldiers' rifles, Nativ added.

But one shell did not match any of more than 15 Galil rifles issued to soldiers serving near the site on that day, Mr. Nativ said. "I still don't know from which gun it was fired. I know it wasn't fired by any of the

guns that I checked."

Palestinian witnesses have testified there was more than one gunman, and the five justice panel suggested during Sunday's session that they were probing prospects that a second assailant was present due to the angle of impact of some bullets.

Justice Eliezer Goldberg asked army investigator Brigadier General David Agmon Sunday how Goldstein could have entered through the main entrance, shot several rounds, and travelled 25 metres without being attacked — unless there was an accomplice.

Gen. Agmon, who described the possibility of an accomplice as "possible, but not probable," said he believed Goldstein protected himself by shooting until he had returned to his point of entry — perhaps with the intention of escaping.

A second police forensic expert, Baruch Segal, was not pressed Monday about

whether he thought there was a second gunman. But his testimony suggested it was possible.

Mr. Segal said that from his examination of bullet trajectories, "I could say that going by the paths that the bullets flew, the shooting came from all corners of the hall."

Mr. Segal was called to the site shortly after the massacre to gather evidence for forensic analysis. He said bullet casings were scattered around the hall, and that their location had "no significance since they could have been moved by the kick of a foot," as victims fled.

In their quest for evidence that could suggest a second gunman was present or that another weapon was fired besides Goldstein's rifle, judges grilled Mr. Segal about gory details of his findings.

Panelist Menachem Yaari asked about whether there

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## PLO, Israel work on deployment of police

Israelis moving out of Jericho and Gaza; Arafat reportedly planning May visit

CAIRO (Agencies) — Two Palestinian generals joined talks with Israel in Cairo on Monday as the Middle East peace process prepared to shift from talk to action.

Major-General Nasr Yousef and Abdul Razzak Al Yahya took part in a meeting on deploying Palestinian police in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank town of Jericho.

The deployment, expected to start within a week, will be one of the most significant changes on the ground in the occupied territories since Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an agreement on Palestinian self-rule in Washington last September.

But Gen. Yousef, the commander of Palestinian security forces, said there was no agreement yet on the size of the police force or on when they would go.

"We are ready to move in

immediately. We are awaiting some arrangements. There hasn't been an agreement," he told reporters at the Cairo hotel where the PLO and Israelis are meeting.

Gen. Yahya, asked earlier when the police would deploy, said: "Within a week more or less. There will be a vanguard group of police officers that will enter first to take over military camps and some specific installations."

Norwegian, Danish and Italian representatives met in Cairo separately on Monday to arrange for a separate deployment of foreign observers in the troubled West Bank town of Hebron.

The three European countries have agreed to send up to 160 observers to reassure the Palestinian population, traumatised by the massacre of dozens of Palestinians in the Ibrahimi Mosque in February. PLO leader Yasser Arafat is

expected in Cairo on Tuesday.

On Sunday, PLO chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said an advance party of Palestinian officers might go to the occupied territories on Monday, to be followed by a group of 300 to 500 Palestinian police, possibly on Thursday or Friday.

But Gen. Yousef denied there was any delay, saying: "There was no original time set date for them to enter."

On Monday morning Mr. Shaath told reporters that he and Israeli negotiators discussed the police deployment into the early hours of the morning at a Cairo hotel.

"I think on the question of the police force, the numbers, the deployment and the timetable, we made good progress last night and we should be able to continue and I hope achieve something today," he said.

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## Oman says Yemeni talks failed, Muscat plans to quit peace efforts

MUSCAT (R) — Oman, which hosted peace talks between Yemen's feuding leaders, said on Monday they had failed to resolve their differences and proposed to withdraw from a multi-national team trying to disengage rival military units.

The Oman News Agency quoted Youssef Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah, Oman's minister of state for foreign affairs, as making the announcement after a second meeting between the leaders of former North and South Yemen on Monday in Oman.

The talks were arranged by Oman's Sultan Qaboos to avert civil war in Yemen after

an accord signed in Jordan by President Ali Abdullah Saleh and his southern rival Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidh, failed to reconcile the leaders who forged Yemen's 1990 union.

The military committee was set up after the accord and includes Omani, Yemeni and Jordanian officers as well as the military attaches in Sanaa of the United States and France.

It ended fighting between rival northern and southern soldiers only hours after the accord was signed but has had less success in disengaging the forces and persuading them to stay away from sensitive bor-

der areas. "In the light of this situation, we have to consult with our brothers in Jordan to end our participation in the work of the joint military committee," the Omani minister said.

He said the first meeting between Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh on Sunday was friendly and they agreed on the principles for avoiding military confrontations and the slide towards civil war.

"But for reasons which we do not know, they were not able to agree on a joint statement along these lines when they met on Monday," he

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## Sudden death, constant fear: Algeria's nightmare deepens

By Rachid Khari  
The Associated Press

### Algeria at a glance

ALGIERS — Posters at the state tourist agency still display Algeria's glories: Magnificent beaches, spectacular scenery, Roman ruins. But holidays have no place in a land overtaken by sudden death and constant fear.

The office, in central Algiers, does not open until midday and closes early. "Why come earlier? To do what?" asked Amel Gacem, who dutifully reports for work. "Thirty-two foreigners have been killed since September. Tourists don't come anymore."

Garbage lies uncollected in the streets of the surrounding business district, picked at by rats. "Algeria has other worries besides keeping its streets clean," said Bachir Zerroum, an economist.

Oil revenues are down and food prices up, he notes. The cost of fighting a two-year insurgency by Islamic fundamentalist guerrillas rises incessantly.

Enraged by the cancellation of January 1992 elections a fundamentalist party was sure to win, militants have fought the army-backed regime with an assassination campaign targeting public officials, intellectuals, journalists and foreigners.

Apart from the fortress-like compounds of generals, cabinet ministers and diplomats, there seems to be no safety anywhere.

On March 22, assailants slit the throats of a Frenchman and his son, while the family watched, at their home in suburban Algiers. A day earlier, gunman had burst into the office of a weekly newspaper in downtown Algiers and killed two employees.

Other recent victims include a popular playwright, a school principal, a French TV cameraman and three teenage girls who did not have their heads covered. Two of the girls were killed last Tuesday.

"I must hide in order to stay alive," said Meriamia, 47, an architect who believes he is on the militants' death list.

Like many Algerians, Meriamia sees no heroes on either side of a conflict that has claimed almost 4,000 lives in two years.

He denounced "fundamentalist terrorism" and "the politicians who argue with each other while Algeria is dying."

"The people are beginning to rebel against violence and demagoguery," he said. "But I'll believe in the rebirth of Algeria when the streets get cleaned again."

THE LAND — On southern shore of the Mediterranean. World's 10th largest country and second-largest in Africa, covering 2,380,000 square kilometres. Major cities and farming areas in a strip along the coast. Interior is mostly uninhabited desert.

THE PEOPLE — Population estimated at 27 million, overwhelmingly Arab and Muslim with significant Berber minority in Kabyle mountains and Algeria. More than 40 per cent under age 15.

THE ECONOMY — A founding member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, at one point earned more than \$12 billion a year — 97 per cent of export income — from oil and gas. Oil Bonanza ended in 1980s while population explosion continued, causing economic crisis and shortages of food and consumer goods that provoked major riots. Unemployment above 30 per cent.

HISTORY — More than 130 years of French rule ended in 1962 after eight-year war for independence. Army set up authoritarian, Soviet-style regime that lacked wide popular support. President Chadli Benjedid initiated political and economic reforms, including multiparty politics in 1989. But when Islamic Salvation Front swept initial round of free parliamentary elections in December 1991, military ousted Mr. Benjedid, cancelled second round of elections, banned the front and cracked down on its supporters. In response, Islamic militants began insurgency, including bombings and assassinations, that has claimed nearly 4,000 lives.

It is a war with no quarter. Security forces claim they killed 357 militants in March, while reporting only 40 arrests. About 60 of the dead were among 900 inmates freed from a high security prison by Islamic commandos in a prison raid March 10.

Fear is pervasive, particularly in the rapidly dwindling foreign community. Thirty-two foreigners have been killed since September, when they became targets of militants seeking to deprive the government of expertise for its reeling, oil-based economy.

The murders at their home of Roger-Michel Drouaire and his son, Pascal-Valery, prompted more foreigners to leave.

French expatriate form the largest foreign contingent in Algeria, but only about 1,000 of 8,000 remain. Those who stay are told to hunker down in a few well-guarded enclaves, protected by mobile police units and electronic detection systems.

France, which controlled Algeria until the war for independence in 1954-1962, has cut the staff at its diplomatic and cultural facilities from 600 to 150.

Most Western businesses have evacuated dependents and reduced personnel to a minimum.

Société Nationale Corse-Méditerranée, which operates ferries between Algeria and France, recalled one of its two expatriates; the second commutes from Marseille. Virtually no French travellers take the boats to Algeria.

Claude Pierre, a leader of the French community, worries about foreigners who work on their own or in small businesses.

"Because they are spread out, they offer easy targets," he said.

Mr. Pierre does not expect an exodus of the estimated 18,000 people who hold joint Algerian-French citizenship.

"They're caught between the threat of death here and the certainty of unemployment in France," he said.

Nonetheless, French authorities worry about a flood of refugees if the fundamentalists take over.

Algerian security forces are in a state of war, desertions are rumoured to be high, and the government may mobilise some of the 150,000 army reservists. A new "civil defence law" will allow Algerians to carry arms if they are deemed potential targets of assassination.

President Liamine Zerrouk is manoeuvring for some sort of political dialogue to ease the crisis.

He professes willingness to include fundamentalists, but government hardliners oppose talks with any opponents linked to the violence and Islamic radicals reject compromise. Leaders of the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), banned after its near victory in the 1992 legislative elections, remain in jail.

The government is desperate for foreign aid and a rescheduling of its \$26 billion debt, but Western demands for austerity and reduced food subsidies pose dilemmas for a government that cannot afford more unrest.

Unions claim the buying power of workers is eroding. Unemployment is above 30 per cent and millions live in poverty.



FIRE IN AMMAN: Tourists sit outside Amman's Forte Grand Hotel after a fire broke out at the hotel early Monday (see story on page 1) (AFP photo)

## First out-first in is good news for expellee

CAIRO (AP) — Freij Ahmad Al Khairy, one of the first Palestinians expelled by Israel in the six-year uprising against occupation of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, will be among the first going back.

Mr. Khairy's name was on the list of 46 handed out Sunday by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO). Israel will accept them back under an agreement reached last week in Cairo to reopen overall peace talks.

The expellees are expected to return this week, though the exact day is not fixed. But after more than 2,000 days in exile, the 46-year-old Khairy seems to have learned patience.

"The timing is not important the important thing is to actually move there," he told the Associated Press in a telephone interview.

It is likely he will be back in Gaza before the sixth anniversary of his exile. On April 11, 1988, Mr. Khairy was among the first eight men expelled during the intifada that erupted the previous December.

After last September's Israel-PLO accord was signed calling for Palestinian autonomy in Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho, 30 expellees were allowed back from among 2,000 who the PLO says were thrown out during Israel's 26-year occupation.

But none of the 61 expelled during the intifada have been allowed to return.

For Mr. Khairy, a longtime PLO activist jailed for eight years by Israel at various times, the most important part of going home will be seeing his parents again.

"The most important thing is that we go back home to our families," he said. "My 85-year-old father and my 70-year-old mother are dying to see me and the grandchildren."

Mr. Khairy's wife and children, two sons and a daughter aged nine and five, have been allowed to go in and out of Gaza during his exile and will delay their return until the school term ends next month.

After being expelled to Lebanon, Mr. Khairy made his way to Cairo where he kept up his commitments to the Palestinian cause, working on a committee supporting the uprising.

Mr. Khairy, a civil engineer, said he was uncertain he could find work in his profession when he goes home but added he expected things to improve once real peace is negotiated.

"There will be hope when the Palestinians take over and we live within our boundaries," he said.

Mr. Khairy served two jail terms between 1968 and 1988 on charges of recruiting for the PLO — then viewed as Israel's arch enemy — and possessing firearms. In between, he studied engineering in Cairo.

Despite his hopes for peace, Mr. Khairy remains bitter at the occupation. He complained that all expellees should be allowed back and accused Israel and the United States of "dirty stalling" in the Gaza-Jericho negotiations that are expected to lead to a full peace treaty down the line.

Still, Mr. Khairy's joy at going home is dissipating some of his anger.

"The return home is very, very sweet," he said. "It is one step in a thousand towards peace."

## Kidnapped American released in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (Agencies) — American Red Cross worker Alfred Peters was released Monday by Somali gunmen who had abducted him after killing his security guard.

Mr. Peters was kidnapped Thursday by up to 15 gunmen who stopped his vehicle a few hundred metres from a United Nations checkpoint and killed his guard, who was riding in a second car.

"I don't know why they kidnapped me. I don't know because they didn't speak English," Mr. Peters said after his release Monday morning. He said he had been treated well.

Mr. Peters, 37, a water and sanitation engineer from Denver, was on his second tour in Somalia, returning in February to help fight the cholera epidemic sweeping the country.

Suzanne Hofstetter, the head of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Somalia, said no ransom was paid.

Ann Stingle, an American Red Cross spokeswoman based in Washington, said the release was unconditional.

"The ICRC has been working through their contacts within the Somali community, clan elders and others, to secure their release, and they are the ones, I assume, that did," she said.

Mr. Peters said he was to leave Somalia later Monday. He did not disclose his destination but said he would later return to Somalia.

Mr. Peters was the first Red Cross worker kidnapped in Somalia, but three foreign Red Cross workers were killed in the country between 1991 and 1993. Ms. Hofstetter said. She said the kidnapping would not stop Red Cross operations in Somalia.

In addition to Somalia, Mr. Peters has served in Red Cross missions in Liberia and Sierra Leone. He escaped a kidnapping in Liberia.

His abduction Thursday was the latest in a series that followed the departure last month of most troops from the United States and other Western nations. Banditry has been on the rise since the withdrawal.

The area where Mr. Peters was kidnapped is loosely controlled by one of the subclans of the Habre Gedir, the clan of Mogadishu warlord Mohamed Farah Aideed. But the kidnappers appeared to be operating independently of his mainstream Somali National Alliance (SNA).

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Slow payment delays delivery of Saudi tanks

DETROIT (AP) — Slow payment by Saudi Arabia has delayed delivery of 215 tanks built by General Dynamics Corporation, the Detroit news reported Sunday. The M1A2 tanks have been sitting since February while the company waits for money needed to equip them for desert use. General Dynamics spokesman Peter Keating told the newspaper the unfinished work is worth \$87 million in materials and labour. He said the company expects some money this month. The General Dynamics has a \$788 million tank deal with the Saudis. The oil-rich kingdom has a cash shortage that could have serious effects on the U.S. arms industry. The cash pinch is caused by low oil prices. American arms makers increasingly have looked to the Middle East for customers as U.S. defence orders have been cut back. The U.S. government ordered 62 tanks from General Dynamics last year while Saudi Arabia and Kuwait ordered 533.

### German journalist killed in Kurdistan

NICOSIA (AP) — Gunmen on Sunday shot dead a German freelance journalist working for the French news agency in Kurdistan in northern Iraq, the news agency said. The journalist, Lissy Schmidt, was gunned down shortly after noon near Suleimaniyah when unknown assailants opened fire on her car, according to the Agence France-Presse office in Nicosia. Her bodyguard, an Iraqi Kurd, also was killed in the assault, said AFP. The news agency said it had been informed of the journalist's death from the U.N. Children's Fund in the Kurdistan city of Erbil. In March, Swedish freelance journalist Anders Blomdahl was injured by a car bomb in Kurdistan while travelling with armed Kurdish guards from the border of the Kurd-held area. According to Kurdish security police, the bomb consisted of 250 or 300 grammes of the explosive TNT and had been attached to the car's gas tank with a magnet.

### 39 held for vandalising Tel Aviv campus

TEL AVIV (AP) — Police detained 39 students Sunday after hoodlums rioted at Tel Aviv University, smashing windows and spraying hoses, to protest the way a three-month teachers' strike was resolved. The violence came the day classes reopened at Israel's main universities after a closure since mid-January when faculty went on strike for higher wages. Instead of attending lectures, students at the Tel Aviv campus called their own strike, demanding automatic passing grades for the fall semester, half of which was missed during the strike. Several hundred protesters got violent, police said. They hoisted down administrative offices, ripped up files, smashed windows and blocked a road next to the campus. Police detained 39 students, later releasing 34. Tel Aviv police spokesman Gadi Doron said. Students at the Hebrew University later announced they would join the strike and stay away from classes on Monday, Israeli media reported. Faculty members were upset by the violence. Although many Israeli students have served in the army and are veterans of military action in Lebanon or in the occupied territories, rarely has unrest erupted on college campuses. "This is sheer hooliganism and it will not pass without response," Professor Uriel Rosen-Zvi, dean of the law school, said on Israel Television.

### Thailand agrees to let PLO set up office

BANGKOK (R) — Faron Kaddoumi, foreign affairs specialist of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) left Thailand for Vietnam on Monday after winning agreement in principle for a PLO office in Bangkok. Foreign Ministry spokesman Poldet Worachet said the two sides had agreed to establish the office, but that details had to be worked out. Mr. Kaddoumi met Thai Foreign Minister Prasong Soonsiri during his visit, part of a Southeast Asian tour. Mr. Kaddoumi is also deputy chairman of the board of governors of the Palestinian Economic Council, which channels international aid for the reconstruction of the occupied territories. Charivat Santaputra, director of the Thai Foreign Ministry's Middle East Division, said Thailand contributed to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) for Palestinian refugees, and was ready to add its technical know-how when reconstruction of the territories began. "The Palestinian side told us that this would take some time," Mr. Charivat said. The Thai government, which has diplomatic relations with Israel, recognises the PLO as the sole representative of the Palestinian people.

### Kinkel reminds Turkey not to abuse Kurds

BONN (R) — German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel on Monday urged Turkey to observe human rights in its struggle against separatist Kurds and keep a promise not to use arms imported from Germany against them. International observers of Kurdish new year celebrations and of last week's local elections have accused Turkish security forces of brutality against Kurdish civilians who the army fear may be helping the banned rebel Kurdish Labour Party (PKK). Some German observers said they had seen weapons sold from former East German stocks being used against Kurds in their homeland in eastern Turkey. Mr. Kinkel reminded Turkey that it had signed an undertaking in June 1992 to use weapons from Germany only to secure its borders. "Foreign Minister Kinkel reminded Turkey that it must do everything to fulfill this commitment," the ministry said in a statement. "In this connection Kinkel also appealed once more to the Turkish government to use legal means in its pursuit of the PKK and to do everything it can to prevent human rights abuses."

### Khartoum closes down newspaper

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's military government permanently shut the country's only independent daily newspaper Monday after less than three months' publication under a new press liberalisation law. The short but tempestuous life of Al Sudan International brought spice to an otherwise tame and bland group of newspapers. Omar Hassan Al Bashir, the president, signed the closure order condemning the newspaper for criticising government institutions. The announcement was broadcast over official Radio Omdurman.

## Dutch captives in Yemen appeal for quick action

SANAA (R) — Three Dutch engineers, who spent Easter in captivity in Yemen, appealed for quick action to free them saying their tribal captors were losing patience, a newspaper reported on Monday.

They were quoted by the English-language weekly Yemen Times as saying their abductors "are visibly getting edgy."

Its reporters said the hostages were "visibly pale, tired and extremely frightened" after interviewing them at a hide-out some 150 kilometres east of the capital Sanaa.

The engineers — Wilbert Elderhorst, 39, Gerard Jeurissen, 57, and Jac van der Gun, 47 — were seized on March 25, by the Jahm tribe which is

demanding rent from oil firms using tribal land.

The newspaper named Sheikh Mubarak Ben Saleh Al Zayidi as the tribal leader who arranged the abduction.

It quoted him as saying that "Western individuals, companies and interests in the marib area will be attacked," if no prompt action was taken to meet his demands.

The tribal leader, who was responsible for the kidnapping of U.S. diplomat Haynes Mahoney last year, said his demands included payment of rent for an oil pumping station built on the tribe's land.

He also wants the army to reinstate 200 Jahm tribesmen, including himself, "who were discharged unjustifiably."

Mr. Mahoney was later released unharmed and it was not known if any deal was reached to secure his freedom.

The Jahm demands, which include a demand for infrastructure services for the area, are the same made by the sheikh, a former army officer, when Mr. Mahoney was held.

The three Dutchmen were working on a research project to develop water resources for Sanaa.

The newspaper said in the interviews conducted on Friday, the captives "asked that the Yemeni government refrain from using force to free them."

The sheikh also warned that "any military attempt (to free hostages) will achieve no result but it will bring harm to the hostages."

He said there has been no contact between him and Sanaa on the Dutch embassy.

The embassy in Sanaa was closed on Monday.

Mr. Van der Gun was quoted as saying: "We are being treated and fed well, but of course we are not accustomed to this kind of living."

"We try to break our day into pieces, spending our time walking and playing stone games, we have been invited to many qat sessions and I chewed with them several times," he said of the middle narcotic qat plant that the vast majority in Yemenis chew regularly.

Two Chinese technicians kidnapped on Sunday by another tribe objecting to a road construction project were still in captivity on Monday. Diplomats said their exact whereabouts were unknown.

The two, members of a Chinese team working on the Jihana-Madrid road, were seized by two armed tribesmen some 50 kilometres from Jihana, the sources said. One source said the kidnappers wanted the road project scrapped and threatened to carry out more abductions if their demand is not met.

Tribes in northern Yemen often kidnap foreigners to force their demands on the government and foreign companies.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

**JORDAN TELEVISION**  
Tel: 7711-19

**PROGRAMME TWO**

17:30	..... Envoy Special Magazine
18:00	..... News in French
19:15	..... Grand Galop
19:30	..... News in Hebrew
20:00	..... News in Arabic
20:30	..... Cinema Cinema
21:00	..... Beyond 2000
21:10	..... Moon Over Miami
22:00	..... News in English
22:30	..... The Cape Relief
23:10	..... The Second Half

**PRAYER TIMES**

04:56	..... Fajr
06:15	..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:30	..... Dhuhr
16:12	..... Asr
19:01	..... Maghreb
20:19	..... Isha

**CHURCHES**

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Switshel, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590  
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757  
Terrence Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623441  
Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543  
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Armenian International Church Tel. 625236  
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 624328  
German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 684195  
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691  
The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

**WEATHER**

*Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.*

It will be relatively hot with winds becoming southerly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and east calm.

	Min./Max.	temp.
Amman		12/29
Aqaba		15/35
Deserts		9/30
Jordan Valley		14/33

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Youssef Nasser	751144
Dr. Youssef Abdo	694916
Dr. Jamal Tarif	794710
Dr. Jamal Ja'bari	794660
Firas pharmacy	661912
Findows pharmacy	776336
Al Asara pharmacy	637035
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636790
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shmeisat pharmacy	637660
Nairokh pharmacy	623672
Najib pharmacy	847632
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	845402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Price Complaints	605800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	897467
Amman Municipality	787111
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	010230
REPAIRS	
Dr. Ali Shagairi	246140
Aqaba pharmacy	(—)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Hussein Al Haj	984344

Electric Power		AQARA:	
Company	636381	Princess Haya Hospital	(03)314111
RJ Flight Information	08-332200		
Queen Alia Intl. Airport	08-533200		

## HOSPITALS

**AMMAN:**

Hussain Medical Centre	81381332
Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	64428116
Al-Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn	64424112
Jabal Amman Maternity	642262
Mahass, J. Amman	626140
Palestine, Shmeisat	6641714
Shmeisat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845545
Al-Musader Hospital	6672279
Tal Islamic, Abdali	66612737
Al-Bashir, Abdali	6661646
Italian, Al-Mudajres	771013
Al-Bashir, J. Ashraf	77511126
Queen Alia Hospital	89161115
Amnal Hospital	6641646
ZARQA:	674155
Al-Zarqa Govt. Hospital	(09)985632
Zarqa General Hospital	(09)925640
Bin Sina Hospital	(09)985632
Al Hikma Modern Hospital	(09)909099

**BBSD:**

Princess Ruana Hospital	(04)233335
Greek Catholic Hospital	(04)232278
Al Na'afes Hospital	(04)237401

## FOR THE TRAVELLER

### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

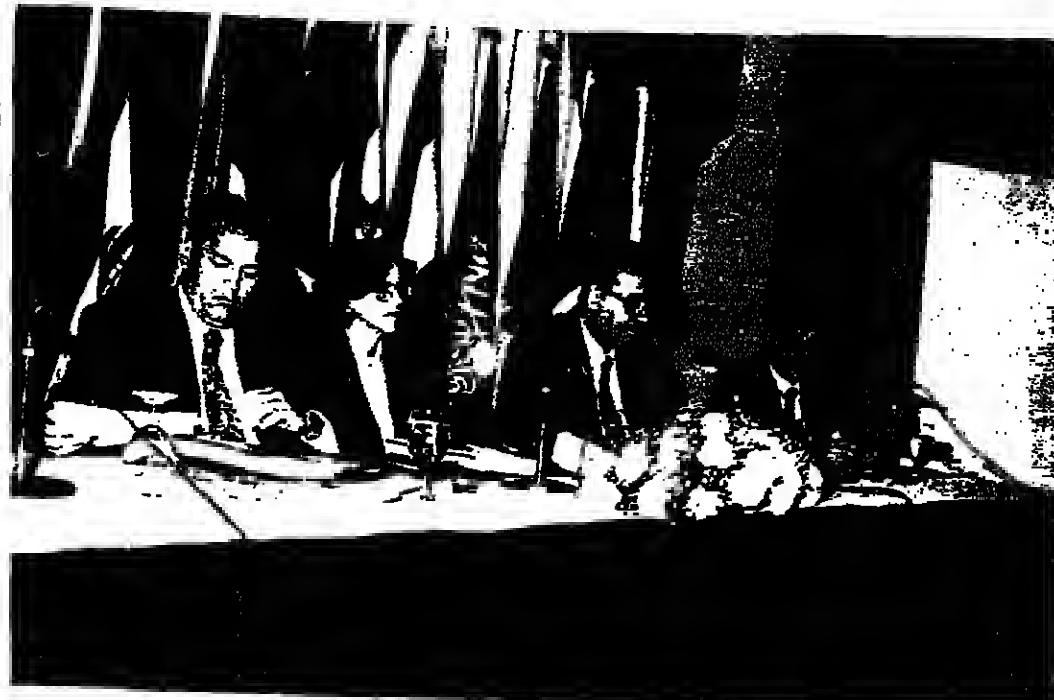
*This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (08)332200 where it should always be verified.*

## ARRIVALS

### Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

04:10	..... Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur (RJ)
06:30	..... Damascus (RJ)
06:45	..... Dhahran (RJ)
10:10	..... Muscat, Abu Dhabi (RJ)
10:20	..... Doha (RJ)
10:25	..... Sama (ad) (RJ)
10:29	..... Amman (RJ)
10:50	..... Dubai (RJ)
17:05	..... London (RJ)
17:25	..... Cairo (RJ)
18:00	..... Frankfurt (RJ)
18:30	..... Chicago, Amsterdam (RJ)
09:00	..... Frankfurt, Vienna (ad) (RJ)





Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Monday opens the International Conference on Packing and Packaging (Petra photo)

## 120 packing, packaging specialists address the future of their industry

AMMAN (J.T.) — Minister of Industry and Trade Rima Khalaf Monday opened an Arab-international conference on packing and packaging by describing the industry as a twin of various agricultural and industrial processes and one that is indispensable for successful trade.

Packing and packaging seeks to protect industrial and food products as well as medicines for later use and for trading with other countries, said Mrs. Khalaf at the opening session

of the six-day conference. Organised by the Ministry of Industry and Trade in cooperation with the Amman Chamber of Industry and the Arab Union of Food Industries, the conference will address food processing, impediments to packing and packaging in the Arab World, scientific research and training of technicians, modern technology in the industry and the adverse effects of packaging on the environment and human health and solutions to them.

such as the safe disposal and recycling of plastics, wood and cardboard.

The concept of establishing a pan-Arab institute to train personnel in the industry will also be discussed.

The conference is attended by 120 participants. On the sidelines of the meeting, a group of international firms are organising an exhibition, displaying the latest equipment and materials used in the packing and packaging industry.

## Status of Jerusalem conference opens Senator criticises 'deviation' in U.S. policy

AMMAN (Petra) — In a reference to the latest U.S. position towards a clause on Jerusalem contained in United Nations Security Council Resolution 904, Senator Kamel Al Sharif said it is impossible for U.S. or European president to comprehend the reality of Jerusalem and its importance to the one billion Muslims around the world.

Deputising Monday for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan in opening the annual symposium on the status of Jerusalem, Mr. Sharif said that the U.S. policy has previously shown minimum fairness to Arabs and pretended not to recognise the fait accompli which Israel has been trying to impose on the occupied Arab city, nor that Jerusalem is part of the occupied Arab territories.

But President Bill Clinton's administration, said Mr. Sharif, deviated from this policy.

He said President Clinton has repeatedly informed Zionist leaders during his presidential campaign that he considers Jerusalem as the eternal and united capital of Israel.

It is clear that the U.S. is taking advantage of the chronic inter-Arab divisions and differences which America has planned for and fostered, Mr. Sharif said. The senator criticised the Arab policy towards Palestine, saying that Arab

countries are playing the role of the full partner in the aggression by supporting the aggression and providing funds and arms to the aggressors.

"If the U.S. is serious about establishing peace in the region, then it should work towards changing the fait accompli situation which Israel has created, despite Arab and Muslim rejection."

"Maintaining this situation means preserving the gains of armed aggression, fostering the climate of war, sparking the feelings of hatred, and encouraging reprisal and violence," Mr. Sharif said.

He stressed that coexistence among Arabs and Israelis is a mere illusion. "Whoever advocates it or works for it does in fact support the Zionist aggression and assists it in exterminating the Palestinian people gradually," he said.

This fact should serve as a departure point for any political move or struggle should the political attempts fail, Mr. Sharif added.

The senator called for establishing an international network of supporters for Jerusalem by capitalising on an idea floated during a previous symposium to establish an organisation for Jerusalem supporters.

He praised His Majesty King Hussein's stands towards the holy city and thanked the King



Scholars representing Arab and Islamic countries Monday attend the opening session of the annual conference on the status of Jerusalem (Petra photo)

for his contribution to restoring the Dome of the Rock and renovating the Saladdin minbar at Al Aqsa Mosque.

Among the speakers during Monday's sessions were President of the Higher Islamic Council for Dawa and Relief Abdul Rahman Swarredah (the former Sudanese head of state), Al Hadi Hantash, assistant secretary general of the Organisation of Islamic Con-

ference (OIC), who deputised for OIC Secretary General Hamed Al Ghabed, Mohammad Ali Jallah from Azhar Mosque, and Raouf Abu Jaher, Chairman of the Islamic-Christian Society in Jordan.

Taking part in the symposium are scholars representing Arab and Islamic countries in Africa, Asia and America.

The symposium, organised by the General Islamic Con-

gress for Jerusalem, aims to raise world public attention to the need to defend religious rights and holy places in Jerusalem and expose Israel's aggressive and illegal operations in the city, according to the congress secretary general Izzat Jaradat.

Senator Sharif is chairman of the Executive Committee of the General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem.

## Ministry to educate public on water economising

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — In May the Ministry of Water and Irrigation will launch an awareness campaign to alert the public to the urgency of economising on water and on May 15 the ministry will implement a water distribution programme to ensure fair allocations to various regions, according to a ministry official Monday.

Adnan Zoubi, the ministry's head of public relations, told the Jordan Times that the ministry expects difficulties in view of the limited supplies of water resulting from a poor rainy season this year and will be educating the public through media on ways to save water.

almost impossible, said Mr. Zoubi.

He said the ministry was studying the water needs of all governorates before launching the distribution programme by May 15 at the latest.

When asked about the replacement of water pipe networks in Amman, a project which started last year, Mr. Zoubi, said that by the end of 1994 the ministry would have completed the replacement

of networks in Wadi Nasser and other parts of eastern Amman. That project cost JD3.6 million.

He said the ministry would embark on similar projects in Jabal Hussein, Jabal Amman and Jabal Luweibdeh at the cost of JD8 million secured in the form of a loan from the German Development Bank.

A sum of JD25 million is needed to finance the replacement of networks in the Amman area alone, he

added. The replacement of the pipes is necessary to save water lost through leaking worn out networks, Mr. Zoubi said.

He said JD12 million in water charges remain unpaid by government and private organisations and individual households.

The ministry, he said, was planning to cut water supplies to subscribers failing to pay their bills.

## Political scientists agree that parties lack solid foundations

By Natasha Bukhari

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Several Jordanian political scientists agreed that political parties in the country lack the foundations of positive functional establishments in our society. "Political parties in Jordan have not yet formed a philosophy or ideology by which they can deal with social, economic, and political issues in the country," said Yarmouk University political science professor Ahmad Thaher in a debate Sunday evening on political parties in Jordan.

During the second session titled "Programmes of Jordanian Political Parties: Aspects of Agreement and Differences," Dr. Thaher emphasised the "pyramid-like" structure of Jordan's political parties, which, he said, was historically based. Dr. Thaher said the Arab World

suffers from an authority complex, adding that those in authoritative positions perceive themselves as above fault and they are unable to distinguish words from action.

"Another characteristic of the Arab leader is that he believes that the outside world is a rotten and corrupt place," said the professor, explaining the reason behind political parties' failure to work together rather than with one another.

Dr. Thaher also pointed to what he saw as the absence of genuine democratic orientation among Jordanians, saying that past inhibitions of supremacy of power and dictatorship in former policies rooted fear in the Jordanian psyche.

"We fear the West, the East, the future, but above all, we fear ourselves," which, according to the politician is the main reason behind the resistance to

change. "The Arabs, he maintained translate this resistance through self-imposed boundaries of culture, religion and political action.

He added that in order to succeed in their political duty of being constructive bodies in society, political parties have to call for change and liberate themselves from fear of the unknown, starting with adopting scientific approaches to face reality and work on adjusting the "outdated" system that is based on rejection.

"We have to teach our children that everything, no matter how complicated, can be researched, and that the truth is never absolute."

The first session of the debate dealt with the popularity of political parties in Jordan, which speakers concurred was poor because of internal and external faults attributed to some of the parties in Jordan.

"All Jordanian parties lack solid structural, political and organisational foundations," said Mohammad Subeih, who described himself as an independent Islamist.

Mr. Subeih said that the perfect formula for attracting citizens to political parties would be to combine social democracy with political democracy, so that people could feel the importance of political work instead of just hearing "slogans."

He added that the country's experience in overt political work was limited and therefore any judgement on performance would be immature. Mr. Subeih said his research on popularity of political parties in Jordan was not concise because of limited access to information on these parties in Jordan.

Mohammad Awad, a political analyst, said that instead of apologising for his "inefficient" evaluation, Mr. Subeih should have abstained from presenting it altogether. He accused Mr. Subeih of "unscientific generalisation" in his presentation and rejected what he saw as the excuse of limited access to information, pointing to his own success in acquiring information about different parties in Jordan.

## 40 countries adopt declaration defining civil protection

By Rana Hussein

Special to the Jordan Times  
AMMAN — Within what they recognised as "a world where the increase of the number of disasters and multiplication of risks constitute a great threat for mankind," the representatives of 40 countries and 12 specialised international organisations, Monday adopted the first Declaration on Civil Protection at the conclusion of the Tenth World Conference on Civil Protection.

Pascal Gondrand, consultant to the International Civil Defence Organisation (ICDO), the conference organisers, said a civil protection definition should be recognised internationally because "until now, civil protection was defined only in times of conflict."

Mr. Gondrand said it is time for countries to be always prepared and not wait for a disaster to happen to react.

He said the old definition of civil protection was limited to "certain humanitarian

tasks" in times of armed conflict or in cases of disasters in a country where a situation of armed conflict prevailed.

The new declaration, according to Mr. Gondrand, extends the definition and helps explain "the concept of civil protection to encompass all humanitarian activities related to the preservation of population, their environment and their property against accidents and disaster of all kinds."

The recommendations also called on governments to consider emergency prevention and preparedness as an integral part and an important aspect of development policy and strategies, hence integrating them in the socio-economic planning at all country levels.

The participants agreed on considering civil protection as encompassing all humanitarian measures with a view to preserving the population, its environment and its property.

Recalling the decision of the U.N. General Assembly to "launch a far-reaching global undertaking for the 1990s to save human lives and reduce the impact of natural disasters," the declaration reaffirms "the relevance of the Rio Declaration regarding the need for the international community to assist states afflicted by natural disasters and other emergencies that are likely to produce sudden harmful effects in the environment of those states."

The declaration also asks the United Nations to "better clarify the roles and responsibilities of its various operational entities in emergency management in order to avoid duplication among these entities as well as among national authorities," and "re-orient its emergency assistance programmes so as to strengthen the existing

national structure and avoid duplicating the assistance by creating new channels."

The ICDO convened the 2-day conference in Amman in cooperation with the Civil Defence Department (CDD). The meeting, attended by about 100 participants was held under the patronage of His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan.

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### HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Hmehd Al Fayez appointed King's military advisor

AMMAN (Petra) — A Royal Decree Monday was issued appointing Major General Hmehd Al Fayez as military advisor and chief military escort to His Majesty King Hussein effective March 29. Maj. Gen. Al Fayez assumed senior leading positions in the armed forces, including commander of the Royal Guard and commander of Al Hussein Ben Ali Brigade.

#### Kaabneh awards religious contest winners

AMMAN (Petra) — Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Abdul Hafez Mirai Al Kaabneh Monday attended a celebration held to honour winners in religious competitions. Geo. Kaabneh presented awards to the first few winners. The celebration was attended by Geo. Kaabneh's assistants and senior army officers.

#### International literature meeting opens

IRBID (J.T.) — An international conference on literature, linguistics and translation Monday was opened at Yarmouk University. Several researchers and professors from Jordan, as well as Arab and foreign countries, are taking part in the four-day conference. The opening ceremony included addresses by University President Marwan Kamal, Dean of the Arts Youssef Ghawanneh and English Department Chairman Mufeed Hawamdeh. The speakers outlined the history of the establishment of the university and the English Department, focusing on the university's role in serving the local community and contributing to the development process. Organising committee member Ahmad Majdonbeh said the conference aims to give a chance to Yarmouk University professors and their counterparts in Arab and foreign universities to exchange ideas and scholarly work in literature, linguistics and translation.

### WHAT'S GOING ON

#### T.V.5 EUROPE PROGRAMME

★ A variety programme in French entitled "Thalassa" transmitted by T.V. 5 Europe at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.

#### THE FIRST QUARTET FESTIVAL

★ The Japanese "Kubo Quartet" at the main theatre at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### FILMS

★ Jordanian film entitled "The Shoe" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

★ Feature film in Arabic entitled "Palestinian Perspectives" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman at 7:30 p.m.

#### DRAMA

★ Comedy in Arabic entitled "The Guarantee" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

#### EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of Zalloom foodstuff products at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ The Second International Stationery Exhibition at the World Exhibition Centre, University Road (Tel. 847113).

★ Book exhibition at Amman University.

★ Exhibition by Egyptian artist Shalabiya Ibrahim at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 678589).

★ Exhibition of spring paintings by Dr. Ali Al Ghoul at Orfali Art Gallery (Tel. 826932).

★ "Spring Exhibition 1994" at the Jordan Plastic Art Association Gallery (Tel. 699914).

★ Exhibition by artist Perween Al Sarraf at

Aba'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.) (Tel. 519861).

★ Exhibition by Iraqi artists Hayfa Habeeb and Farouk Hassan at Alia Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 1:30 p.m., 3:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.).

★ Exhibition entitled "Return to Nature" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ "The Amman-Baghdad exhibition" by Artist Ahmad Al Shaikhali at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Ceramics exhibition by artist Isam Naeir at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of Jordanian herbs at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Flower exhibition entitled "The Flower Bridge Between Jordan and Palestine" at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Amman (10:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.) (Tel. 679166).

★ Computer exhibition at the Amman International Auto Exhibition.

★ Art exhibition by artist Ahmed Nawar at Balika' Art Gallery in Fuhis (daily from 10:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 729902).

★ Jordanian-Iraqi contemporary exhibition by over 80 artists at Abu Art Gallery in Wadi Sagra (9:30 a.m.-8:00 p.m.) (Tel. 644451).

#### LECTURE

★ Lecture entitled "Water Shortage as a Challenge to the Development of Jordan" by Mammel Schiffer, researcher and economist at the German Development Institute in Berlin, at the Goethe-Institut at 6:30 p.m.

#### DIALOGUE

★ Dialogue with Mr. Mu'nis Al Kazzaz, head of the Jordan Writers Association, at the Phoenix Gallery for Art and Culture at 7:00 p.m.

Jordan Times  
Tel: 667171

### CONDOLENCES

The staff of  
America-Mideast Educational &  
Training Services  
(AMIDEAST)

mourn the loss of their friend and colleague

**JUMANA JUBRAN ESSAU**

a woman of substance and spirit  
whom we shall never forget.  
May she rest in peace.

### The bereaved family of the beloved Jumana Jubran Essau

express their deep appreciation to all the friends who extended kind condolences on her untimely demise.

Special thanks to H.E. the Ambassador and Mrs. Wesley Egan and to each and every member of the U.S. Embassy in Amman.

May God bless them all, and rest in peace the soul of our beloved Jumana.







## King reaffirms support

(Continued from page 1)

the whole Arab Nation and for the sake of ensuring a better and more dignified future for the coming generations.

"Words fail me in expressing my feelings in solidarity with the Palestinians in view of the Hebron massacre and the continued suffering of the people of Hebron and other parts of the occupied lands," King Hussein said.

"We pray to God to see the day when every Arab would recognise the magnitude of sacrifice offered by the steadfast people in the occupied lands."

"We pledge to pursue all possible efforts to help alleviate your sufferings and provide whatever assistance you need," the King said.

The president of the Khalil Al Rahman Society in Amman representing the people of Hebron in Jordan, Waheed Ja'abari, delivered

an address voicing Hebronites' deep gratitude to the King and the Jordanian government and people for their help to the victims of the Hebron massacre.

Jordan had set up a national committee to raise funds for the victims of the mosque attack and has been hosting the injured in Jordanian hospitals for treatment.

Leading members of the Hebron delegation also delivered addresses in which they outlined the peoples' sufferings under occupation and referring to the arbitrary measures adopted by the Israeli authorities against the Palestinian people.

Later Mr. Ja'abari announced that King Hussein had offered to personally finance the cost of treating the wounded from the massacre not only in Jordan, but also abroad.

Mr. Ja'abari voiced the gratitude of the Hebron families for the King's offer.

## Sarajevo upbeat on anniversary of war

By Kurt Schork  
Reuters

SARAJEVO — Few shoppers pause to stare at the one crater in their shattered city that marked a turning point in Bosnia's brutal war.

Withered bouquets mark the spot where a mortar bomb exploded in Sarajevo's central market, killing 68 people and wounding nearly 200 others.

But in a city where mourning had become a way of life, Sarajevoans are looking beyond mere survival for the first time since the war began two years ago this week.

Attracted by rapidly falling prices and a restored tram service, secure in the knowledge that Serb guns which laid siege to the city have been silenced by the threat of NATO air strikes, buyers sift through a motley selection of goods displayed in the outdoor stalls.

Vendors offer bruised potatoes smuggled in through a tunnel built under the city airport. Housewives barter packages of humanitarian aid for cigarettes. The setting may be sombre, but the mood is upbeat.

"I feel like I have come out of a dark hole, a cave, because now we have some hope," said 65-year-old Saima, who sells home-grown vegetables.

"I had three grandchildren killed by a shell in my garden. So I will never forget the war. The Serbs are still on the hills all around us. But the shooting has stopped. Even if we can't call this a real peace it's better than what we had."

The market massacre moved the conscience of a world which had become lulled by a war in which 200,000 had already been killed and two million made homeless.

The international community's response was prompt.

NATO ordered all heavy weapons withdrawn from range of the city or surrendered to the United Nations, which then brokered a ceasefire between rebel Serbs and Muslim-led government troops defending the capital.

With the truce in its eighth week and holding, Bosnia's battered capital is slowly getting back to its feet.

Neighbourhoods that shivered in the dark through two winters of war are getting their water, power and gas lines repaired. In a city long-addicted to coffee and leisurely conversation, scores of new restaurants and cafes are opening every week.

Small numbers of civilians are even beginning to move between Muslim and Serb-held sections of Sarajevo over a bridge recently re-opened under a landmark "Freedom of Movement" agreement.

The market massacre prompted the United States to jump into the diplomatic fray over Bosnia. The result has been a surprise federation agreement between government and Croat forces that radically alters the prospects for peace.

Once allies against rebel Serbs, Muslims and Croats spent most of 1993 fighting each other for territory in central and western Bosnia. Their rapprochement has created a political and military counterweight that is putting rebel Serbs off their stride.

Although the Serbs still occupy 70 per cent of Bosnia, they now face a unified Muslim-Croat front and near universal condemnation as the war's initial, and most consistently barbaric, aggressor.

Neighbouring Serbia, the Bosnian Serbs' paymaster, has been crippled by economic sanctions imposed by the United Nations to hasten an end to Bosnia's war.

The combination of a Muslim-Croat reconciliation and diplomacy against the Serbs is already paying dividends on the ground in Bosnia.

The Muslim enclave of Maglaj, under siege by Croats and Serbs for nine months, recently opened to relief convoys after surviving the winter on rations dropped from the air.

Humanitarian aid is suddenly streaming into central Bosnia from Croatia's Adriatic coast, along routes long blocked by Croat forces.

As the war winds down, Sarajevoans who spent two years scrounging firewood and heating jerry cans of water are worrying about new problems.

Jobs, housing and education remain in doubt so long as Sarajevo remains ringed by armed Serbs proclaiming a new, ethnically-pure, republic on their side of the line.

Tens of thousands of refugees and war invalids are competing for scarce food, shelter and medical care in a capital still racked by shortages.

Money for rebuilding the city's schools, factories and hospitals is promised. But international donors will have to contend with a local bureaucracy mired in the Communist ways of former Yugoslavia.

By Susan Cornwell  
Reuters

WASHINGTON — Last spring, Hillary Rodham Clinton was dubbed "Saint Hillary" by a New York Times reporter for her emphasis on spirituality. A year later the image in the news is closer to our lady of the fast buck.

Some political analysts think Mrs. Clinton has been knocked off the pedestal on which all first ladies stand, at least for a while, by revelations that she made a quick \$100,000 in the high-risk commodities markets 15 years ago.

"I think it's scarred her," said Bruce Fein, a constitutional and presidential scholar. "It looks like she's aggressive and grasping, engaged in profit-making like an old-time buccaneer."

But Mrs. Clinton's defenders say the different facets of her personality are exaggerated by the media and her critics.

"She goes from being Saint Hillary to let's say Hillary. The swings in this are hysterical. It's just nuts," said Lynn Cutler, a Democratic activist and longtime friend of the first lady.

Mrs. Clinton's commodities trading came into the spotlight last week because of the investigation into other business dealings she and President Bill Clinton had in the Whitewater land deal back when he was running the state of Arkansas.

No one has accused the first lady of any legal wrongdoing. But many are frankly envious of her gains in the cattle futures markets, where she turned a \$1,000 stake into \$100,000 in 1978-79 while her husband was first attorney general, then governor of Arkansas.

Mrs. Clinton opened the commodities accounts the same year she and her husband invested in the Whitewater deal with a savings and loan operator regulated by the state. The thrift later failed and is now under federal investigation.

The Clintons' critics zeroed in on the fact that her principal adviser in the markets was James Blair, the lawyer for the Tyson Poultry Company, which received \$9 million in state loans while Mr. Clinton was Arkansas governor.

The New York Times editorialised Thursday that the Clintons had been "a well-meaning young couple who seemed to have an extraordinary indifference to, or difficulty in understanding, the normal divisions between government and personal interests."

Others contrasted the revelations with the Clintons' earlier crusade against the greed of the go-go 1980s.

"I think it has changed their image. Whether they understand that or not, they are not all goodness and light... They were soiled by the 80's too," said Larry Sabato, a political scientist at the University of Virginia.

Mr. Fein noted Mrs. Clinton had enjoyed an image as a smart lawyer. He said the commodities trading "sullies her image as someone who worked hard and made profits just by being brilliant. Most people don't think trading in cattle futures has any greatness for the country."

But Ms. Cutler, a former vice chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, said "I think everybody under-



Hillary Clinton: from "Saint Hillary" to the lady of the fast buck (AFP photo)

## The first lady's image affected by trades

stands the need to make a little money."

She noted Mrs. Clinton was a breadwinner for her family, working as a lawyer while her husband was the nation's lowest-paid governor. His starting salary in 1979 was \$33,519.

Ms. Cutler noted that photographs of Mrs. Clinton from her commodity-trading days do not show a jet-setter.

"If you look at the pictures, you can see this was not a woman who cared about clothes. She was not saying, 'I'm gonna throw this stuff on my back.' It was, 'I'm gonna build for my family,'" the Clintons' only child, Chelsea, was born in 1980.

Last May the New York Times' Michael Kelly tagged Mrs. Clinton "Saint Hillary" after she rapped the nation's "crisis of meaning and spirituality" and called for a new "politics of meaning." Her father had just died.

But Ms. Cutler said "the last person in the world who's going to claim sainthood is Hillary Clinton. I'm sure she fell down laughing when she saw that."

The politics of meaning, she said, was reflected in the Clintons' "deep, true commitment to make this country better."

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"We will never live in peace as long as they are among us. They have forced themselves on us and built their homes on our land," Ms. Jaabari said.

If settlers did not leave Hebron, "Palestinian families who lost members of their families in the most brutal massacre will seek revenge," she said.

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## Blaze at Amman hotel

(Continued from page 1)

dow and injured himself could not be immediately confirmed.

"As of this evening we have 40 guests who chose to stay with us," Mr. Kanaan said. "We are continuing clean-up and hope to be back in business in three days." No estimate of damages was immediately available.

The injured were six Britons, two Italians, three Iraqis and one Jordanian.

Dr. Adwan, the tourism minister, told the Jordan Times: "The fire would have been catastrophic had the hotel not used fire-retardant materials in construction and furnishings."

"As a rule, the concerned authorities ensure that such materials are used in hotels. All other similar hotels in Jordan have such preventive measures against fire."

It was the second fire at a major Amman hotel in two years. In March 1992, a faulty electric circuit caused a fire at the Inter-Continental Hotel, killing an Iraqi businessman who was caught in a stalled elevator.

In December 1994, a blaze at the Safeway Department Store, also blamed on a faulty circuit, injured more than 300 people.

## Oman says Yemen talks failed

(Continued from page 1)

added. The minister said Oman hoped the Yemeni rivals would now resolve the political crisis "at their own initiative" and that they would settle their differences in order to maintain Yemeni unity.

Mr. Saleh and Mr. Beidh, who left Oman separately on Monday, were the former leaders of North and South Yemen respectively before the two merged in 1990.

They have been locked in a paralysing feud for eight months over the balance of power in the United State between its conservative and tribe-dominated north and the largely secular, formerly Marxist south.

The two men signed a reconciliation accord in Amman in February which was supposed to end the quarrel by bringing in political and economic reforms.

But there has been intermittent fighting between rival army units since then, and Yemen's northern and southern political parties have continued to trade insults and accuse each other of wanting to split the

country in two again.

Political sources in Sanaa said the Omanis were already frustrated with Yemeni army units, which agree to move out of areas where they are confronting rival troops only to move back again when the committee has gone.

Sources in the vice-president's Yemen Socialist Party (YSP) said in Aden that Mr. Saleh stormed out of the talks at Salalah, the remote resort of Sultan Qaboos, threatening to use force to bring to heel leaders who continue to defy him.

This could not be confirmed with Mr. Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) or by independent sources, but diplomats in Sanaa and officials in neighbouring Arab states said they feared a military confrontation which neither side could easily win.

Diplomats said the United States and other Western and regional powers fear Yemen could follow the pattern of civil war in Somalia, just across the Red Sea, where rival warlords control the devastated countryside.

## Mothers on opposite sides live in fear

By Wafa Amr  
Reuters

HEBRON — Widad Al Jaabari and Shelli Karzen are two mothers, an Arab and a Jew, living in fear in the heart of Hebron.

Ms. Jaabari lost her husband in the Hebron mosque massacre on Feb. 25, one of dozens Muslim worshippers gunned down by Jewish settler Baruch Goldstein.

Ms. Karzen is one of 400 Jews settled among 110,000 Arabs in the occupied West Bank town. Arab gunmen have killed Jews there. Arab youngsters stone her children.

The two women have not met, but both say that living in fear is unbearable.

"I live with my children in terror for being surrounded by settlers," said Ms. Jaabari, a mother of eight still mourning her husband.

"I gather my children around me at night and we all sleep in the corridor, not in our bedrooms. We are afraid they might barge in and kill us," she said.

The Jewish settlement of Kiryat Arba, where Goldstein lived, is only 100 metres from her house. A fence separates the settlement from her garden. She said a Kiryat Arba road was built on land belonging to her husband's family.

Since the massacre Ms. Jaabari has kept her window shutters overlooking the settlement firmly shut.

Last week as Ms. Jaabari walked in her garden, a Jewish woman holding a baby looked at her from an apartment window and motioned with a finger across her neck as if to signal the Arab woman would be better off dead.

"I have not been able to sleep ever since from fear," Ms. Jaabari said with tears welling up.

Ms. Karzen immigrated to Israel from the United States 10 years ago and moved a short time later with her family to the Jewish enclave of Tel Rumeida, home to only seven families, in the heart of Hebron.

"I'm not happy Palestinians are suffering, but I wish the



A Palestinian woman raises her hands in anger as she mourns the killing of members of her family (AFP photo)

Arab population can say the same thing," she said while her husband Uri walked into the room with a rifle strapped over his shoulder.

"We are the ones being threatened, and have protection and hide behind plastic windows... My kids get pelted with stones on their way to school and they think Arab kids are the bad guys," said

Ms. Karzen, the pregnant mother of three.

Israel captured Hebron, a town holy to both Muslims and Jews, along with the rest of the West Bank in the 1967 Middle East war.

Ms. Karzen said Jews had since settled in parts of the town where they lived before being killed and forced out in Arab riots in 1929 and 1936.

"We came here because it is our home, our roots are here, and we believe we came here as representatives of the Jewish people," she said.

Ms. Karzen said she believed Palestinians ultimately wanted Israelis out of Hebron, and all of Israel for that matter.

Neither woman offered hope for an easy solution to the

settlements issue, or for peaceful coexistence.

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## Israel, PLO work on police

(Continued from page 1)

Major-General Amnon Shakhak, Israel's deputy chief of staff and Mr. Sheath's usual negotiating partner, also joined the talks.

Dr. Shaath said on Sunday that the negotiators needed Gen. Shakhak to be present to deal with some of the points under discussion.

Dr. Shaath said three prominent lawyers from the West Bank and two from the Gaza Strip were also arriving on Monday to take part in negotiations on legal aspects.

The PLO and Israeli teams need to decide what laws will apply in the occupied territories in the transitional period leading to an agreement on their final status.

At the moment a mixture of

Israeli, British and Ottoman laws are in force, alongside some Egyptian laws in the Gaza Strip and some Jordanian laws in the West Bank.

"Six committees will be meeting day and night to reach agreement. There will be achievements every day on the way to reaching final agreement," Dr. Shaath added.

On Sunday he said there were no longer any serious sticking points and the negotiators should be able to sort out all the details of Israeli self-rule in Gaza and Jericho within two weeks.

Israeli soldiers and police bailed away equipment from bases in Jericho Monday ahead of the handover to Palestinian

self-rule and a possible visit next month by Mr. Arafat.

Youths lobbed stones and bottles towards the police station in the central square of the sleepy oasis town in an 11th hour show of resistance to Israel's 27-year-old occupation.

Soldiers, mindful of foreign TV cameras, replied with the occasional percussion grenade.

Elsewhere in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip they shot and wounded 27 protesters, mostly in Hebron, Palestinians said.

PLO officials in Tunis confirmed on Monday that Mr. Arafat planned to visit Jericho in May.

Jericho residents, including PLO officials, said that as usual they had been told nothing by Tunis of what was happening.

They watched silently as trucks took away furniture and files from the heavily protected police station opposite the town hall balcony from which Mr. Arafat is expected to address Palestinians on his return.

On the edge of town soldiers made a bonfire of old furniture, signs and rubbish at the civil administration headquarters. The army-run authority which administers the occupation and cranes lifted portakabins on to trucks.

On the road to Jerusalem bulldozers levelled ground for new offices and a new army border post. Palestinians said the position of this and another post on the northern edge of the town showed that the size of Mr. Arafat's Jordan Valley enclave would be 54 square kilometres, less than a quarter

of his original demand.

Israeli security officials stressed that soldiers and police were not yet leaving, merely equipment.

In Gaza City authorities began moving 600 prisoners from Ansar II prison camp to a detention centre in the Negev desert on Sunday night and by noon Monday only about 25 remained to be moved.

Israeli Environment Minister Yossi Sarid, a top negotiator in earlier talks with the PLO, said he believed talks in Cairo would be completed by the end of April and the pull-out completed two or three days later.

"At the end of April or the beginning of May everything will be concluded, negotiations and implementation as well," Mr. Sarid told reporters after a cabinet meeting on the talks.

"Yasser Arafat could visit

then — in May."

Israel had vowed to put off withdrawing troops until reaching a written agreement on security but has now decided to implement what is agreed immediately.

Housing Minister Binjamin Ben-Eliezer said: "Definitely we have agreed in order to save time. That movement should be from both sides — as well as allowing the (Palestinian) police... to get in. At the same time we are pulling out all forces that are not required to guarantee the area."

The cabinet decided on Monday not to discuss relocating Jewish settlers from Hebron at this stage.

But Mr. Sarid said the government should compensate Israelis who wanted to leave the Gaza settlement of Dugit to "set an example for other settlers willing to leave."



## Bank of Jordan reports brisk work in Ramallah

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Hundreds of customers line up at the Bank of Jordan, the Kingdom's second-largest bank, when it reopened its first branch in the occupied West Bank Monday.

The office in Ramallah is the first of nine branches the bank plans to open throughout the occupied territories as part of the peace agreements to give Palestinians autonomy.

Ishak Akari, the bank's director, said that business in the first day in the occupied West Bank town of Ramallah was surprising and unexpected.

"It is very encouraging for the first day, we never expected such a crowd," Mr. Akari told the Associated Press.

He said that at least 250 new accounts were opened in his bank on Monday, handled by about 45 employees.

Last month the Bank of Israel issued a permit to the Bank of Jordan to open a branch in Ramallah.

Mr. Akari said eight other Bank of Jordan branches will open in major West Bank cities in the next two months, and will also open banks in Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

Palestinians are expected to start assuming control of the areas this month.

Eighty Jordanian banks operated 31 branches in the West Bank and Gaza Strip until the lands were seized by Israel in the 1967 Middle East war.

One bank, the Cairo-Amman Bank, was allowed to reopen in 1986 under a special arrangement that gave Israel control over the bank's operations. The restrictions kept other Jordanian banks from reopening.

Following progress in the peace talks between Israel and Jordan, both sides signed an agreement of understanding that included Israeli approval of reopening of all closed Jordanian banks.

Mr. Akari told Reuters: "The bank started full operation today. The next step will be to open branches in Nablus, Jenin, Hebron — and this will take place within the coming three months."

"We will also open branches in Bethlehem, Gaza, Jericho and Qalqilya later on. We have not encountered any problems yet. Our operations got off to a normal start today."

Mohammad Ali Ibrahim, assistant manager of the Bank of Jordan, said in Amman on Sunday that the Ramallah branch would have full banking operations including transfers in dinar and foreign currencies, loans, and letters of credit.

## Bargain hunting cuts Wall Street stock losses

NEW YORK (R) — Blue-chip stocks plunged Monday morning amid fears of higher interest rates, but managed to narrow their losses as bargain hunters bought up hard-hit issues.

The Dow Jones industrial average was off 34.83 points at 3,601.13 at 1 p.m. (1700 GMT), rebounding from an early loss of more than 83 points.

The New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) invoked its automatic limit on computer programme trading to slow the market's descent when the Dow lost more than 50 points in 10 minutes.

Despite the market's partial recovery, sentiment remained overwhelmingly negative, with 2,000 issues down and less than 500 up. Trading volume was heavy at more than 194 million shares on the NYSE.

The Dow set a record high close on Jan. 31 of 3,978.36. It has been backtracking under pressure as reports pointed to a stronger-than-expected U.S. economy.

The latest setback was triggered by Friday's report that non-farm payrolls in March rose by an unexpectedly brisk 456,000, nearly double the 234,000 rise forecast by economists. The jobless rate held

steady at 6.5 per cent, as expected. Monthly personal income and spending were also reported with unexpectedly strong gains.

Economists said given the economy's expansion, only 125,000 jobs can be added each month without fuelling inflation.

The reports fanned inflation fears and boosted the prospect that the Federal Reserve will tighten credit again to keep the economy from overheating. It has raised interest rates twice in two months to tighten credit.

The stock market was closed Friday for the Easter holiday. The bond market, which was open, was rocked by the jobs data, and the yield on the treasury's key 30-year bond shot up to its highest since January 1993 at 7.28 per cent.

The yield escalated anew Monday, rising to 7.30 per cent.

The rapid rise of the long bond yield is disconcerting and damaging the equity markets, so at the moment all is confusion, said Alan Ackerman, analyst at Reich Co.

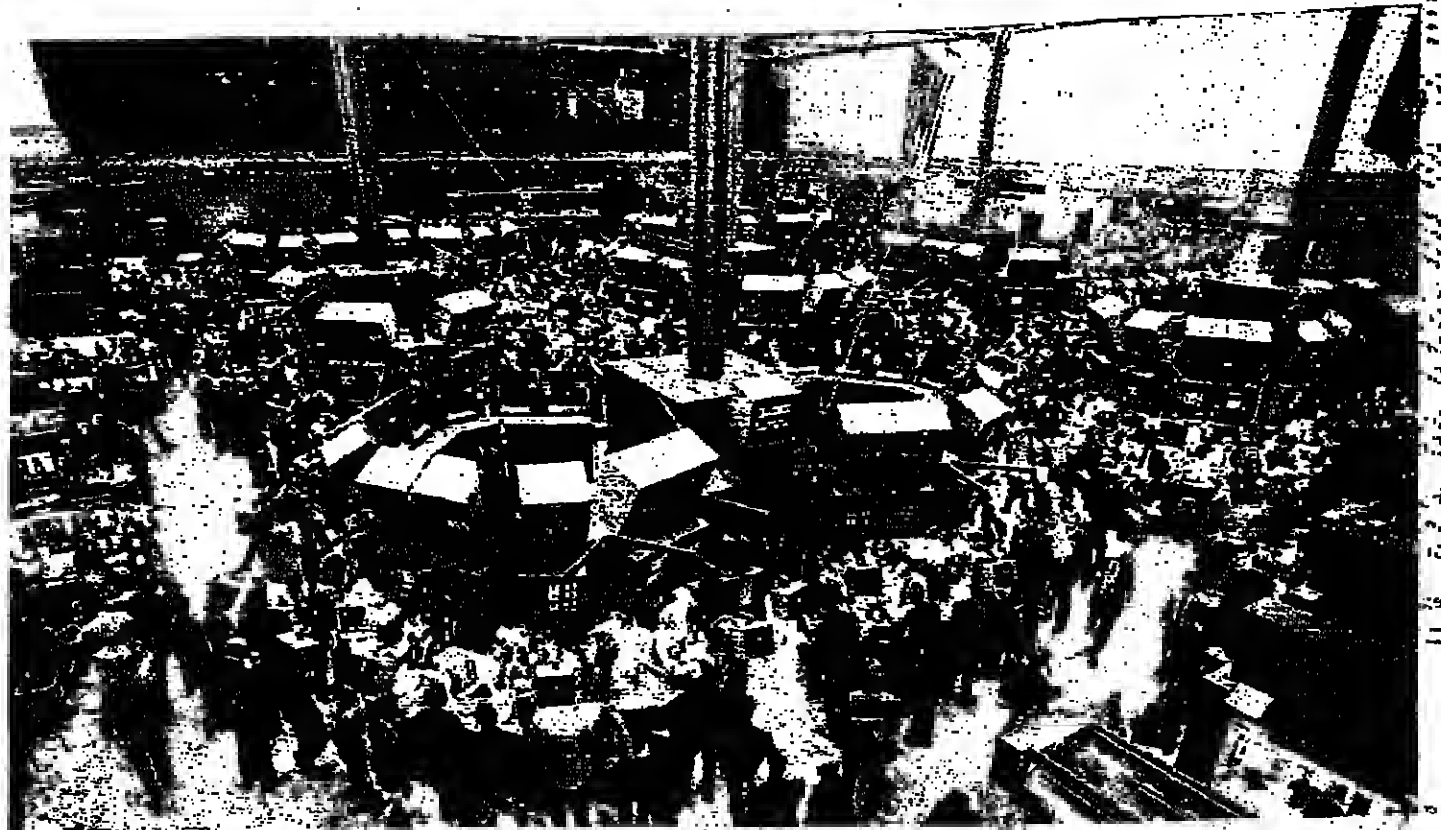
Investors have been selling stocks, fearing that the higher cost of borrowing money could stifle the economy.

Phil Orlando, equity portfolio manager at First Capital Advisors, said the 3,550 level for the Dow was a key support that should hold, and that the market could see a bounce.

"The equities, in order to catch up with Friday's collapse in the bond market, had to sell off to about the 3,550 level and that happened in about the first hour," Mr. Orlando said.

"My best guess is that we find support at 3,550 and see the market trend up from there," he said.

Economists speculated the



Traders on the floor of the New York Stock Exchange

central bank might move to raise interest rates this week.

Gregory Nic, a market analyst at Kemper Securities, said while small hike would further pressure an already reeling stock market, a sharper one could sow the seeds of a rebound.

"If they do a substantial move, there would go down and rally quickly," he explained. "There would be a jolt on the news but then relief on the feeling that this may be all the medicine we have to take."

Mr. Orlando said bargain

hunters were focusing on economically sensitive cyclical, high technology and automobile issues.

Among stocks seeing some bargain hunting was Caterpillar, up 1 1/4 to 113 1/2.

Among Dow components stepping gingerly into positive

territory, Du Pont was up 1/4 at 53 1/4. Procter & Gamble rose 1/4 to 53 1/4 and McDonalds Corp. was up 1/4 at 57 1/4.

The NASDAQ index was down 14.31 points at 729.15 and the American Stock Exchange index lost 7.56 points at 435.55.

## China says it can live without GATT membership

BEIJING (R) — China wants to join GATT but will not take membership at any price and can live without the world free trade body if necessary, an official newspaper has said.

"With or without access to GATT, China will emerge as a powerful global competitor," the China Daily quoted a senior official as saying.

The newspaper said Li Zhongzhen, deputy director general for international relations at the ministry of foreign trade and economic cooperation, ruled out accepting membership of the General Agree-

ment on Tariffs and Trade (GATT) at any cost.

"The bottom line is equal treatment," Mr. Li told the newspaper.

"China hopes to obtain unconditional most-favoured nation (MFN) treatment equivalent to that accorded to all other contracting parties by participating in GATT," Mr. Li said.

"It is important to point out that this is the fundamental international principle applied universally, not a privilege as claimed by certain political arguments," he pointed out.

The official newspaper criticised the United States for its approach of MFN for China.

Washington insists China makes progress on human rights before it will renew the low-tariff policy for Beijing this year.

Without MFN, Chinese goods would not be competitive in the huge and important U.S. market.

The China Daily said China believed the U.S. approach, "runs counter to the spirit of GATT."

Mr. Li pledged that even if China failed to join GATT, its policy of economic reform and opening to the world would continue.

But he warned that if China

failed to get membership in the world body, countries that wanted access to the huge Chinese domestic market would have to negotiate individually with Beijing.

"The world trade community has a choice between accepting China as an equal trading partner by granting GATT membership, or competing for access to the Chinese market on a reciprocal basis," he stressed.

China's bid to join GATT has been stalled by Western objections, particularly from the United States, that Beijing has not yet made enough of a transition from a socialist-style planned economy to a capitalist-style market system.

## EUROPEAN COLLECTOR OF WRISTWATCHES



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**Don't miss this opportunity.**

After this date write me at:

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6976 Castagnola - Switzerland  
Tel.: 0041 91512387**

## Turkish lira plummets ahead of austerity package

ISTANBUL (R) — Turkish lira took a sharp downturn Monday, plunging 11.5 per cent to the dollar over expectations that economic austerity measures would push interest rates and relax the tight grip on the currency market.

The lira fell to 30,500 on the interbank, down from 27,000 Friday. Astronomic interest rates, which at one point hit 1,000 per cent, kept the dollar in tight control in the past two weeks.

"People bought the package expectation today, they may sell it tomorrow," said one banker, adding that he expected stability measures could even include a surprise devaluation of the lira.

Unconfirmed details of the economic stability package already hit newspaper headlines, according to which price rises in state-sector goods including petroleum will be up to 100 per cent and value added tax rates will be increased.

The government is also expected to cut jobs, restrict wage rises, freeze investments and swiftly privatise state firms.

The central bank may also widen banks' reserve requirements to help the frail lira regain its credibility.

Some bankers said the dollar, which jumped 105 per cent against the lira since Jan. 1, was overvalued. "There is nothing concrete to justify this rise," said one fund manager.

"The stability measures will lead us towards stagnation. The dollar's rise has to slow down after the package is disclosed," said the same banker who asked not to be named.

Also helping the dollar was the central bank's apparent absence in the currency market for the first time in two months.

Uncertainties about the dollar's future trend kept its spot price in the bazaar currency market below the interbank levels. By midday, it was trading at the 28,000-29,000 lira range.

"There are uncertainties, people prefer to wait," said one.

Istanbul Stock Exchange index raced 8.84 per cent up to

end at 16,356.48, as investors rushed to buy shares on the prediction that Mrs. Ciller's measures would calm the money markets.

"Prices are very cheap for buying," said Kerem Korur, assistant general manager at Hak brokerage. The market had lost 48 per cent in the period between Jan. 13 and April 1.

News the annual consumer price inflation jumped to a 23-month-high in March at 73.6 per cent had hardly any impact. Monthly price rise was 5.2 per cent, down from six in February.

Bond yields shrank in thin volume and traders said investors were keen on completing deals before interest rates are trimmed.

But one banker said he expected short-term rates to remain high for some time, although those on the longer-end could fall.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR TUESDAY APRIL 5, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** The triple sextile to Neptune, Sun and Mars offers a special opportunity to bring your special capabilities to the attention of higher-ups who can help you advance in career matters.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) An opportunity to advance presents itself early in the day so be alert. The path to greater success and happiness is open to you if taken.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) You have much energy now so be sure to schedule your activities wisely. Associates are more willing to cooperate now.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) You are able to handle important business matters very well now but be wary of obstacles in your path. Safeguard your health during this time.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Strive for increased harmony in the home. You can derive into new aims and get excellent results now by your hard effort.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) Get busy communicating with everyone who is important to your welfare. Sideslip one who is detrimental to your progress is getting ahead.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have fine ideas that could mean added income in the

future, so don't waste time putting them in operation for your utmost success.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Engage in outside interests that could give you more abundance in the days ahead. Strive for increased happiness from your loved ones.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are able to solve a problem that has been a puzzle to you in the past. Plan how to have more accord with associates you are involved with.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be sure you know what your true personal aims are before going after them. Come to a fine agreement with fellow associates you meet.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have some excellent ideas that should be discussed with influential persons who can help you put them across to those in charge.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) You can make good progress in a new project you have in mind if you apply yourself seriously. Don't neglect your health.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Put your talents to work that could give you more abundance in the future. Be active and be sure of what you are doing to those in authority.

## JUMBLE

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

LEWJE

SARBS

CARECS

CITIEL

Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer: THE "C O R N E R"

Yesterday's Jumbles: STOKES SCOUT CHALET CORNER

Answer: What the electrician said the movie was — A REAL SHOCKER

(Answers tomorrow)

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## Peanuts



## Mutt'n'Jeff





## Soros fund invests \$40m in Morocco

CASABLANCA, Morocco (R) — Quantum Emerging Fund (QEF) has taken shares worth more than \$40 million in Morocco's largest private enterprise, the Omnium Nord Africain (ONA), the group has said.

The fund set up in 1969 by international investor George Soros has bought two per cent of ONA's capital and 15 per cent of its financial holding subsidiary Diwan, a group statement said.

ONA is active in fisheries, agro-industry, mining, real estate, banking, sugar, textiles and other sectors. Its capital is \$361 million and its turnover this year has been estimated by the group at 24.3 billion dirhams (\$2.76 billion).

The Moroccan royal family holds 18 per cent and its chief executive is Fouad Filali, son-in-law of King Hassan.

## Gulf Air chief criticises Arab airline competition

MANAMA (R) — Gulf Air President Salim Bin Ali Assiyabi Monday criticised Arab carriers, including newly born airlines in the region, for competing in a limited market by offering lower prices.

Mr. Assiyabi, whose airline has faced increasing competition in the Gulf, contrasted the "appropriate" European framework for regulating the air transport industry with the lack of a proper regulatory framework in the Arab World.

"Arab airlines... compete within their limited markets at

a time when European carriers are seeking to pool their potentials and resources by merging within a single company or entity," Mr. Assiyabi said.

"Here the picture shows the birth of new airlines competing with the existing carriers and increasing the level of competition within the same markets," he said at the opening of the annual conference of the Arab Air Carriers Organisation.

Mr. Assiyabi said that while European airlines were cooperating in pursuit of overseas markets, Arab carriers

were competing on their own turf.

He did not give names but both Qatar and Oman, which together with Bahrain and Abu Dhabi emirates in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) own Gulf Air, recently set up separate airlines that compete with Gulf Air on some of its routes.

Dubai, also in the UAE, has in addition set up the thriving Emirates Airline.

Mr. Assiyabi had until now publicly brushed off suggestions that the new airlines

might hurt Gulf Air, stating that his company would compete on service, but his remarks Monday clearly demonstrated his unhappiness with the new market situation.

"In Europe, competition between airlines focuses on providing excellent services to passengers while the Arab carriers are competing to offer lower prices," Mr. Assiyabi said.

Mr. Assiyabi said reports indicated the world airlines, with the exception of a few airlines including Gulf Air, lost

around \$3 billion in 1993. They had accumulated losses of \$8.5 billion in the 10 years ending in 1992.

He said Gulf Air made a steady profit averaging \$47 million in the past three years, up from an average \$25 million a year from 1980 to 1990.

The passengers using the airline's services climbed to 4.3 million in 1993 from three million in 1990. Cargo and mail services rose to 116,000 tonnes in 1993, up 73 per cent from 67,000 tonnes in 1990.

Mr. Assiyabi recommended improved coordination between Arab airlines and also suggested gradual privatisation of the carriers "so that the consumer becomes the actual beneficiary of the profits of the Arab air transport industry."

Gulf Air has long sought to sell part of its shares to the public. Its directors considered the matter in a meeting on March 30 and plan to make a final decision in June, Mr. Assiyabi said after the March meeting.

## Iran begins test run in petrochemical plant

NICOSIA (R) — Iran Monday began test production in the second phase of a \$3 billion petrochemical complex in the Gulf port of Bandar Khomeini, Tehran radio said.

The second phase would triple output capacity to three million tonnes a year at Iran's biggest petrochemical complex, it quoted Ahmad Rahgozar, deputy oil ministry and head of the national petrochemical company, as saying.

Mr. Rahgozar said the complex, Iran's biggest, would produce \$1 billion worth of various products when it reaches full capacity but did not say when that would be achieved.

The project in northern Gulf started in 1971 as a 50-50 joint venture with a Japanese consortium headed by Mitsui and Company, but work was dis-

rupted by Iran's 1979 Islamic revolution and Iraqi air raids during the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Iran wanted Mitsui to complete the project after fighting ended but the Japanese side, which believed the project was no longer economical, withdrew in 1990, paying Iran 130 billion yen (\$800 million at the time).

Mr. Rahgozar said Iran had invested \$2.5 billion in the project and the Japanese consortium \$500 million.

Sixty-five per cent of the plant's output has been sold in advance to German, French and Finnish firms to help finance the project, he said.

Bandar Khomeini would more than double Iran's annual ethylene output to 600,000 tonnes.

## Saudi firm to invest \$13 m to make trailers

MANAMA (R) — The Saudi Laod Traosport Company (Mubarrad) plans to invest around 50 million riyals (\$13.3 million) to make refrigerated and dry cargo trailers, a senior company official has said.

The official said Mubarrad, which converted to a joint stock company in 1991, will start later in 1994 to produce 1,000 units a year in the Saudi Capital Riyadh.

He said the firm, which ships vegetables and lamb meat to and from Gulf Arab states, posted a 6.2 million riyal (\$1.7 million) net profit in 1993, up from 4.7 million (\$1.3 million) a year earlier.

The Riyadh-based Mubarrad proposed a 15 million riyal (\$4 million) cash dividend to shareholders for 1993, higher than its entire 1993 net profit.

## UAE central bank starts issuing long term certificates of deposit

ABU DHABI (R) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has started issuing new certificates of deposit (C.D.s) which are expected to develop the domestic money market and make it easier for banks to cover a cash crunch.

Bankers said Monday the central bank Saturday started selling new C.D.s with lifespans of up to 18 months, more than doubling the maturities of the C.D.s it previously offered.

It has also pledged to buy them back from local and foreign banks, giving them for the first time the option of converting C.D.s to cash whenever they want.

"In the event banks need liquidity they can sell them back to the central bank," said William Allum, UAE Foreign Exchange Association presi-

dent. "It provides backstop liquidity."

But banks might have to take a loss if they do sell them back before the maturity dates, because the central bank will only pay for the time that has lapsed since the bank first purchased the CD.

"They provide liquidity but potentially they might have to take a loss to realise it," Mr. Allum said.

Previously the central bank did not buy back all the C.D.s it issued for one, two, three and six months.

It now also issues C.D.s for nine, 12 and 18 months.

Bankers said this was significant because it gives investors an idea of the value of the dirham over a period of time — a longer maturity will enable the banks to establish a

yield curve for the dirham.

Another new feature is that C.D.s can be purchased in dirhams instead of dollars, Mr. Allum said. Being dirham-based would enable the C.D.s to be used as a tie-off point for pricing other instruments.

But it was too early to tell what effect the C.D. will have on the interbank market in dirhams.

"They are selling them in dirhams but it's too early to tell at the moment, we have to see how they price them over time," Mr. Allum said. "If they price them too aggressively market liquidity could dry up."

The C.D. rates are based on the London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR), at which the U.S. dollar is traded between banks in Europe.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET

AMMAN STOCK EXCHANGE

ORGANIZED MARKET: STOCK PRICE LIST FOR MARCH 04/04/1994

COMPANY'S NAME	TRADED PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	OPENING PRICE	CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN NATIONAL BANK	148,340	150,000	151,000	149,500
AMMAN COMMERCIAL BANK	37,920	38,000	38,000	37,900
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	19,220	19,200	19,200	19,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	18,220	18,200	18,200	18,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	9,220	9,200	9,200	9,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	49,078	49,000	49,000	49,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	17,178	17,200	17,200	17,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	28,517	28,500	28,500	28,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	109,788	109,700	109,700	109,700
AMMAN TRADING BANK	10,150	10,100	10,100	10,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	10,660	10,600	10,600	10,600
AMMAN TRADING BANK	12,025	12,000	12,000	12,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	240,884	240,800	240,800	240,800
AMMAN TRADING BANK	78,274	78,200	78,200	78,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	104	104,000	104,000	104,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	22,500	22,500	22,500	22,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	4,022	4,000	4,000	4,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	50,409	50,400	50,400	50,400
AMMAN TRADING BANK	4,022	4,000	4,000	4,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	24,898	24,800	24,800	24,800
AMMAN TRADING BANK	14,599	14,500	14,500	14,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	25,362	25,300	25,300	25,300
AMMAN TRADING BANK	723	720,000	720,000	720,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	283	280,000	280,000	280,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	19,509	19,500	19,500	19,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	7,100	7,100	7,100	7,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	20,648	20,600	20,600	20,600
AMMAN TRADING BANK	1,839	1,800	1,800	1,800
AMMAN TRADING BANK	59,881	59,800	59,800	59,800
AMMAN TRADING BANK	723	720,000	720,000	720,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	9,528	9,500	9,500	9,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	723	720,000	720,000	720,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	9,500	9,500	9,500	9,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	13,250	13,200	13,200	13,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	1,472	1,450	1,450	1,450
AMMAN TRADING BANK	18,135	18,100	18,100	18,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	2,883	2,850	2,850	2,850
AMMAN TRADING BANK	1,472	1,450	1,450	1,450
AMMAN TRADING BANK	2,883	2,850	2,850	2,850
AMMAN TRADING BANK	7,123	7,100	7,100	7,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	7,918	7,900	7,900	7,900
AMMAN TRADING BANK	220,068	220,000	220,000	220,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	17,299	17,200	17,200	17,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	10,290	10,200	10,200	10,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	2,542	2,500	2,500	2,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	2,542	2,500	2,500	2,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	2,542	2,500	2,500	2,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	12,663	12,600	12,600	12,600
AMMAN TRADING BANK	24,595	24,500	24,500	24,500
AMMAN TRADING BANK	12,164	12,100	12,100	12,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	13,220	13,200	13,200	13,200
AMMAN TRADING BANK	17,064	17,000	17,000	17,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	14,864	14,800	14,800	14,800
AMMAN TRADING BANK	17,064	17,000	17,000	17,000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	1,150	1,100	1,100	1,100
AMMAN TRADING BANK	12,023	12,000	12,000	12,000

GRAND TOTAL: 2,008,427

## Financial Markets

U.S. Dollar in International Markets

Currency	New York Close	Tokyo Close
Sterling Pound	1.4735	1.4740
Deutsche Mark	1.6980	1.6980
Swiss Franc	1.4269	1.4260
French Franc	5.7943	5.7815 **
Japanese Yen	103.68	103.77
European Currency Unit	1.1368	1.1366

European Interest Rates

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.375	5.750	4.00	4.50
Sterling Pound	5.00	5.125	5.250	5.50
Deutsche Mark	5.50	5.4375	5.375	5.1875
Swiss Franc	4.00	5.9375	5.875	5.8125
French Franc	6.00	6.00	5.9375	5.625
Japanese Yen	2.00	2.00	2.0625	2.1875
European Currency Unit	6.25	6.12	6.00	5.93

Precious Metals

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	391.40	7.60	Silver	5.77	0.130

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.702	0.704
Sterling Pound	1.0335	1.0387
Deutsche Mark	0.4136	0.4157
Swiss Franc	0.4923	0.4948
French Franc	0.1212	0.1218
Japanese Yen	0.6744	0.6778
Dutch Guilder	0.3680	0.3698
Swedish Krona	---	---
Italian Lira	0.0431	0.0433
Belgian Franc	---	---

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.8660	1.8600
Lebanese Lira	0.040575	0.041255
Saudi Riyal	0.18600	0.18800
Kuwaiti Dinar	2.2500	2.3600
Qatari Riyal	0.19050	0.19150
Egyptian Pound	0.1950	0.2100
Omani Riyal	1.8040	1.8200
UAE Dirhams	0.19050	0.19150
Greek Drachmas	0.2675	0.2655
Cypriot Pound	1.2855	1.2935

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### Kozyrev: Policy changes are due to elections

MOSCOW (AP) — Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev says the recent hardening of Russia's foreign policy is a response to the victory of hardliners in December's parliamentary elections.

Explaining the policy shift in a TV interview Sunday night, Mr. Kozyrev said Russia needs to reassert itself as a global power, but stressed that his new line should not be viewed as anti-American.

"If the extreme nationalist opposition accuses me of being a pro-American, it means we're pursuing the right policy towards the United States. The opposition wants to build relations with the United States and NATO on an enemy basis," he told the new independent television network.

Since extreme nationalists in the Communists won about 40 per cent of the national vote in the Dec. 12 elections, Moscow has adopted a more assertive foreign policy and has been less inclined to follow Washington's lead in international matters.

This was especially evident with Mr. Kozyrev, who has long been viewed as a pro-Western, reformist politician and was a favourite target for hardliners' attacks and resignation demands.

Mr. Kozyrev's new tough talk included a January speech pledging to defend the rights of ethnic Russians across the former Soviet Union.

In a statement carried by the official news agency ITAR-TASS earlier this year, Mr. Kozyrev also said Russian troops must remain in former Soviet republics to avoid a "security vacuum" in regions of "vital interest to Russia."

The Foreign Ministry later claimed the statement was distorted.

Under Kozyrev's guidance, Russia has played an independent peacekeeping role in the former Yugoslavia, and now wants the United Nations to recognise some of its peacekeepers in restive ex-Soviet republics as U.N. troops.

The foreign policy changes seem designed to pacify the hardliners, many of whom view President Boris Yeltsin as a Western puppet, mourn the loss of the Soviet Union and want to rebuild some form of Russian empire.

Mr. Kozyrev said in the TV interview that the new foreign agenda was not a result of pressure by nationalists and other hardliners, yet he acknowledged that the elections had much to do with it.

"We would have been hard democrats and I would no longer respect myself if I did not heed the opinion of the voters, the voice of the people that was expressed in recent elections," he said.

Mr. Kozyrev said some Western critics do not want Moscow to play a major role in international affairs.

"If I'm criticised by those who clearly dislike Russia's independent role as a global power — and there are such people in the West — I see it as a good sign," he said. "This means that we are doing everything correctly."

Zhirinovskiy's past questioned

Meanwhile, public records show that Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, the Russian nationalist leader who campaigns on anti-Semitic themes, had a Jewish last name until age 18.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy vehemently denies that he or his parents were Jewish. Mr. Zhirinovskiy's origins have political significance in Russia because of his attacks on Jews, and the documents raise questions about his candor.

The public records were found by a reporter working for the Associated Press and Cable News Network in four archives in Alma-Ata, Kazakhstan, the city where Mr. Zhirinovskiy was born and raised.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy's Liberal Democratic Party won 23.5 per cent of the national vote in December's parliamentary elections, and he has said he will run for Russia's presidency in 1996. Much of his political strength rests on extreme nationalists who are virulently anti-Semitic.

Although the records do not say specifically who his father was, Mr. Zhirinovskiy's surname was listed on his birth registration as Eidelstein. Documents show he applied for and received permission to change his name from Eidelstein to Zhirinovskiy in June 1964.

### U.S. believes N. Korea has 2 nuclear bombs

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — The United States thinks North Korea may have already built two nuclear weapons and is developing a programme that could produce a dozen a year.

Defence Secretary William Perry said Sunday.

Speaking on the NBC programme Meet The Press, Mr. Perry said the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) estimates that North Korea may have one, possibly two, nuclear bombs.

"They are embarked on a programme of development which could get them a dozen or more bombs a year," he added.

Mr. Perry said the United States could knock out North Korea's nuclear weapons facilities but has rejected that option because it might provoke a war.

The United States did not expect to resolve its dispute with North Korea in a matter of a week or two and was prepared to be patient, he said.

But "if that (stalemate) is the case six months from now, I believe we would be out of the diplomatic mode and applying pressure," he said.

Mr. Perry said U.S. concern about North Korea's weapons programme included fears that it might sell them in the Middle East where it markets weapons, including short-range missiles, and that it is in the early stages of developing longer-range missiles that could strike targets in Japan and elsewhere.

NBC News reported Sunday that North Korea plans within two years to build a third plutonium reprocessing line some 25 times as large as the facilities it now has. Plutonium is a key ingredient of nuclear weapons.

Mr. Perry said: "The issue at this time is not tied directly on whether they have one or one-and-a-half or two bombs. It is whether they will stop the nuclear programme that they have under way."

"Our first objective is to freeze the programme where it is now," he said. "Then we can be concerned with rolling that back."

The Washington Post reported Saturday that North Korea is in the process of doubling its plutonium capacity and has forged ahead with related nuclear reactor programmes.

The most worrisome construction has taken place in a reprocessing facility in Yongbyon which the United States has long contended should be dismantled, according to the Post.

A South Korean official said Monday his government disagrees with the CIA report that North Korea already has developed at least one atomic bomb.

"There is no unanimous opinion on it even in the United States," Assistant Foreign Minister Choi Dong-Jin said at a monthly news briefing for foreign reporters.

"No one seems to have clear evidence that North Korea has developed nuclear weapons or not," he said.

At a New Year's news conference early this year, South Korean President Kim Young-Sam said he had reliable intelligence reports that North Korea did not have an atomic bomb. He refused to elaborate.

Meanwhile, Vice Foreign Minister Hong Soon-Young said Sunday the South Korean government should consider dropping its demand for an envoy exchange with North Korea as a major concession towards breaking the Korean nuclear deadlock.

The envoy exchange, along with full U.N. inspections of North Korea's nuclear facilities, has been a precondition for high-level U.S.-North Korea talks on improving relations and resolving nuclear disputes.

Shelving the envoy exchange could enable the international community to pressure North Korea more effectively to accept inspections, Mr. Hong said.

If Seoul makes the concession, North Korea may feel more obligated to comply with the U.N. resolution on nuclear inspections, he added.

The presidential office declined to comment. But Mr. Hong indicated his government may call a meeting of high-level security officials this week to explore a new strategy on the nuclear dispute.

Mr. Hong also said low-level, unofficial contact is under way between the United States and North Korea on how to break the impasse. He did not elaborate.

North Korea accused the U.N. Security Council Monday of playing into U.S. hands by pressuring Pyongyang to allow unannounced international inspection of its nuclear facilities.

A North Korean Foreign Ministry spokesman told the official Korean Central News Agency (KCNA) that last Thursday's Security Council statement was unreasonable and made no sense.

According to KCNA, monitored in Tokyo, the spokesman said the statement was part of a U.S. policy of trying to stifle North Korea's Communist system but this was bound to fail.

The United States is leading international efforts to determine whether North Korea is secretly developing nuclear weapons in contravention of its commitments under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty (NPT).

### U.N. says Serbs block observers from Gorazde

SARAJEVO (R) — The United Nations said Monday Bosnian Serbs had refused to permit to send more military observers to the Muslim enclave of Gorazde, which has been under Serb attack for a week.

U.N. military spokesman Rob Annink said Serb artillery and tank fire hit the town and the front lines Sunday but the fighting appeared to have died down overall in the so-called U.N. "safe haven."

One civilian was killed and a soldier in the Muslim-led army and four civilians were wounded in Sunday's fighting, Mr. Annink told a new briefing in Sarajevo.

Muslim-controlled Sarajevo Radio said the Bosnian government army in Gorazde had repulsed two infantry attacks, one overnight and the second Monday morning.

Mr. Annink said the U.N. Protection Force had suspended its plan to send more military observers to reinforce the present overworked four-man team in Gorazde because the Serbs encircling the eastern Bosnian enclave had refused to allow them passage.

Mr. Annink said the Serbs had told UNPROFOR that they should delay their plans to send in the military observers because of "Muslim offensives and various combat activities" in eastern Bosnia, including in Gorazde.

"So it's off for the moment," Mr. Annink said.

Apart from the military observers, the international presence in Gorazde, where 65,000 people are trapped, is limited to a handful of aid workers.

Meanwhile, the police chief in a Bosnian Serb town where up to 20 people have died in a wave of ethnic cleansing has assured the Muslims there they were safe. But many still want to leave, a U.N. official said Monday.

Kris Janowski, spokesman for the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Sarajevo, was briefing reporters on the situation in Prijedor, a Serb nationalist stronghold in northern Bosnia from where the U.N. is planning a mass evacuation of non-Serbs.

"We know that the local Muslim representative was approached by the local police chief who basically urged them not to go, saying they would receive guarantees of safety, that they would be safe and nothing would happen to them."

"But from what we know they (Muslims and Croats) are not quite convinced that this would be the case. The last time we spoke to them a lot of people said they would leave."

Mr. Janowski said there were no new reports of violence against Muslims and Croats in Prijedor and other parts of Serb-held northern Bosnia.

The situation is apparently calm. There are more police on the street now," Mr. Janowski said.

### Britain, Ireland close ears to Sinn Fein plea

DUBLIN (R) — Peace moves in Northern Ireland were stuck in a new rut Monday after IRA allies failed to convince Britain or Ireland they should treat its three-day truce as a key to end the conflict.

Both governments responded tersely to leaders of Sinn Fein, the Irish Republican Army's political wing, who said Sunday the ceasefire starting Wednesday was a crucial step forward.

"What is needed is not a three-day ceasefire, after which the killing would begin again, but a permanent end to violence," the British government replied in a statement.

"Sinn Fein should stop playing with people's emotions and deliver the end to violence that the people of Northern Ireland long for."

In a key Anglo-Irish initiative in December Britain offered outcast Sinn Fein leaders a place at talks on Northern Ireland's future, but only after the IRA stopped fighting for three months and proved it would not resume guerrilla attacks.

Sinn Fein has not replied, saying it needs Britain to explain the plan to it in face-to-face talks before any end to the IRA's 25-year battle to end British rule in Northern Ireland, whose Protestant majority wants to stay British.

Sinn Fein leaders say an hour's meeting will do and urged British Prime Minister John Major at the weekend to seize the opportunity during the 72-hour truce, secretly if needs be.

Sinn Fein head Gerry Adams and his number two Martin McGuinness stressed at weekend rallies that the truce's importance lay in its "potential" — an offer that if Britain responded the ceasefire could be extended indefinitely, sources close to the IRA said.



Women watch the body of their friend Ethel Danise in the Durban township of Bambhanyi who was allegedly shot by Inkatha Freedom Party supporters, while praying for peace at a wooden cross (AFP photo)

### S. Africa may delay vote in Natal

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Wracked by violence and under a state of emergency, voters in Natal province may have to wait a few weeks longer than the rest of the country to take part in South Africa's first all-race election.

A summit of top leaders this week will consider delaying the vote in Natal, where more than 40 people have died in the four days since the emergency declaration.

President F.W. de Klerk, African National Congress leader Nelson Mandela, Zulu King Goodwill Zwelithini and his uncle, Zulu nationalist leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi, are to meet Friday to discuss the conflict over the April 26-28 election, the first to include the black majority.

News reports Monday quoted unidentified government sources as saying a possible postponement of the vote in Natal — which includes the KwaZulu black homeland led by Mr. Buthelezi — would be considered.

Election officials said last week the vote could be delayed in Natal and KwaZulu. That would give leaders more time to address Zulu demands for autonomy.

International mediation of the dispute could begin this week, and a settlement could prompt Mr. Buthelezi to end his election boycott.

Mr. Mandela's ANC is favoured to win the election and lead the first post-apartheid government. It has pledged to eliminate black homelands, including KwaZulu, created under apartheid.

That would wipe out the power of Mr. Buthelezi, who has invoked Zulu nationalism by saying the ANC wants to destroy the tribal culture.

Mr. De Klerk, in conjunction with the multiracial Transitional Executive Council helping run the country until the election, last week declared a state of emergency in Natal to ensure free political activity.

More than 1,000 South African troops have been sent to the eastern province, but violence has continued. Police reported four deaths Sunday, raising the toll to at least 41 since the emergency declaration.

Politically motivated violence also continued elsewhere. In the Orange Free State province, police said racism appeared to be the motive for a drive-by shooting that killed a 10-year-old black girl and wounded a 63-year-old black woman.

The two were in a crowd of black farmworkers walking on a road when they were fired on from white men in a passing car Sunday.

In Natal, nine members of a family of ANC supporters died when their home was attacked Saturday near Port Shepstone, south of Durban. The victims included a 5-month-old girl.

In another incident, assault rifle-fire from an ANC-controlled area killed one woman and injured another as they prayed Easter Sunday at a cross set up in the streets of Bambhanyi, outside Durban.

Mr. Buthelezi accuses the ANC waging a low-level war against his followers, while the ANC claims Zulu nationalists assisted by KwaZulu police have fomented violence to try to prevent voting in Natal.

Most of the nation's seven million Zulus live in Natal, where nearly a decade of fighting between Zulu supporters of the ANC and Mr. Buthelezi's Inkatha Freedom Party has killed thousands of blacks.

### 'Hosokawa fails to clear doubt about past'

TOKYO (R) — Two out of three Japanese say Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa has failed to clear up doubts about his controversial financial dealings and should allow a full probe, according to an opinion poll released Monday.

A telephone poll of some 1,500 respondents at the weekend revealed that 68.4 per cent were dissatisfied with Mr. Hosokawa's account of why he borrowed 100 million yen (\$980,000) from Sagawa Kyuhin, a trucking firm at the centre of a 1992-93 payoff scandal.

Only 14 per cent said they were satisfied with the prime minister's side of the story, while the remainder were undecided.

About 68 per cent said the prime minister should agree to a full probe of his affairs and allow his former political aide, who had been in charge of Mr. Hosokawa's finances, to give testimony on the affair in parliament.

Japan started a new fiscal year on April 1 without a state budget because of a stalemate in parliament over Mr. Hosokawa's refusal to provide more information on two past financial dealings, including the Sagawa loan.

The opposition, led by the once-ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), is holding the budget hostage in an attempt to force Mr. Hosokawa to agree to bring parliament two witnesses who could reveal more about both affairs.

Mr. Hosokawa has said that the 100 million yen (\$980,000) from Sagawa was a loan to renovate an ancestral estate and to purchase a Tokyo condominium. He said he repaid the money with interest by 1991 but has been unable to produce receipts to prove his point.

The opposition maintains the money was used as undeclared political donations to fund Mr. Hosokawa's successful bid for election as governor of Yamaguchi, southern Japan, in 1983.

The LDP is also demanding that a financial consultant appear in parliament for questioning about a 1986 loan his stock investment firm gave Hosokawa under highly favourable conditions.

Poll respondents were divided over whether the LDP should continue to hold the budget hostage.

Forty-three per cent backed the LDP's strategy, while 44.5 per cent said the budget and its accompanying income tax cuts should be passed first before parliament turned its attention to Mr. Hosokawa's affairs.

### Georgia, Abkhazia sign refugee return deal

MOSCOW (R) — Delegates from Georgia and its rebel province of Abkhazia signed an agreement Monday on the return of refugees displaced by fighting and a joint appeal to the United Nations to deploy a peacekeeping force on the spot.

"The second document is a declaration on measures for the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict," U.N. Abkhazia envoy Edouard Brunner announced at the ceremony.

"Here we have an application by the parties to the United Nations to deploy a peacekeeping force in the region at the same time as a ceasefire is decided upon," he added.

U.N. officials have until now been cautious about sending peacekeepers to the breakaway Black Sea region — or to fall in with the Kremlin's idea that the U.N. should pay for Russian forces to police the conflict in the old Soviet backyard.

But U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali and Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev sat smiling as they watched Georgia's representative Sandro Kavsadze and Abkhaz Prime Minister Sokrat Dzindzholiy sign the appeal in Moscow.

"Let no one labour under the illusion that it will all be plain sailing from now on," Russia's representative, Boris Pastukhov, told reporters after the signing ceremony.

"There's still a long, hard course to chart."

Abkhaz rebels declared the province independent from Georgia in 1992, sparking off over a year of war which ended last year when the rebels seized control. More than 200,000 Georgians fled the province and clashes have continued ever since.

Georgian Radio Monday reported fresh clashes on the Georgian side of the Inguri River, which marks the border.

But Pastukhov and the Georgian and Abkhazian envoys all praised the mood of realism and compromise which had characterised the breakthrough talks in Moscow, successive rounds of U.N. talks in Geneva have ended inconclusively.

They said the current deal had become possible because Georgia had bowed to a key Abkhaz demand to bar any Georgian ex-residents of Abkhazia who had fought alongside militants against Abkhaz separatists from returning.

The Russian envoy made an emotional appeal of his own for those Western nations who called Georgia and Abkhazia their friends to match words with deed and play a more active part in helping the two peoples sort out their differences.

He did not specifically ask that this be done with U.N.-funded Russian peacekeeping forces. "We believe this process will need international support to survive," Mr. Pastukhov said.

"Russia, in any event, will do all it can to help these homeless people win back their peace and happiness."

"The most important thing that each family — deprived by the war and experiencing unbelievable suffering — each such family and every such person should be able to sit at his own hearth again, even if his home has been destroyed by fire."

"It seems to us that no one has a right to stand aside."

The Security Council on March 25 renewed the mandate, until June 30, of a 22-member U.N. observer mission in Georgia.

But the international body has been reluctant to contemplate sending a possible peacekeeping force of about 2,500 troops unless peace talks seemed likely to make progress.

Georgians and Abkhazians last met in New York from March 7 to 9 but failed to complete an agreement. Mr. Brunner said three sets of negotiations would follow Monday's signing ceremony.

Refugee talks would start immediately in the southern Russian city of Sochi, bordering Abkhazia, full peace talks would resume in Geneva on April 9, he said.

Georgia wants its troops in Georgia, Tajikistan and other war-torn former Soviet republics to be granted the status of United Nations "blue helmets" but to remain under Moscow's command. Russia also has urged the West to help pay for its peacekeeping efforts.

So far, the United Nations has refused those requests.

Under U.N. rules, peacekeeping operations are undertaken by multinational forces from neutral countries and the troops are under U.N. command.

Foreign Minister Kozyrev said on television Sunday that he understood Dr. Ghali's concern that turning Russian troops into U.N. peacekeepers could set a dangerous precedent. It is easy to imagine other countries sending troops into neighbouring states and then asking for U.N. status, he said.

### Briton falls out of jet aircraft and survives

COLCHESTER, England (R) — A British man who fell out of a jet aircraft and whose parachute only partially opened escaped with minor injuries after falling 3,000 feet (900 metres) to the ground Sunday. Des Moloney's ejector seat broke from its mounting and crashed through the cockpit canopy when the plane turned upside down in a loop.

"I thought he was a goner," said Moloney's brother Tom, who was flying the jet Provost around Colchester in southeast England. Moloney, 28, got out of the seat and pulled the ripcord, but the parachute was damaged and he hit the ground with a bump on grass near a supermarket, suffering cuts and bruises. Emergency services found him cheerful but dazed, his first words to his brother were: "Reports of my death are premature." One aviation expert said his survival was a miracle.

### Rolling Stone Jones was murdered

LONDON (R) — Hard-living Rolling Stones guitarist Brian Jones, found dead in his swimming pool almost 25 years ago, was murdered, British newspapers reported Sunday.

A coroner recorded a verdict of death by misadventure when Jones, who had split with Mick Jagger and the rest of the rock band, died at his mansion in rural Sussex in July 1969. But according to accounts of two new books in the News of the World and The People, Jones was deliberately drowned. Quoting alleged death-bed confessions and the investigations of authors, the two newspapers — both sassy popular tabloids — give similar accounts of the last moments of the rock star's life characterised by drug and alcohol abuse. "I killed Brian Jones," screamed the News of the World. "Rolling Stone murder sensation," said The People.

When Jones died it was generally assumed that his lifestyle, a classic 1960s story of sex, drugs and rock and roll, had got the better of the 27-year-old Rolling Stone. But the newspaper reports said that one or perhaps two people known to Jones murdered him by holding his head under the water of his swimming pool until his body went limp. Sussex Police, who accepted the original verdict, said Sunday they would look at any new evidence. The Jones story has parallels with recent claims of suspicious circumstances surrounding the death of another icon of rock and roll, American guitarist Jimi Hendrix, in 1970. Hendrix, 27, died after overdosing on drugs at the London home of his German girl friend, a coroner recorded an open verdict at the time. Last month British authorities declined to reopen the Hendrix case after newspaper reports claimed that fresh evidence including delays in reporting his death cast doubt on the original verdict.

### Pedophiles luring children by E-mail

BOSTON (AP) — The pedophiles' techniques aren't new: Befriending some lonely children, gain their trust, lure them into sex. But the setting is changing. Now, instead of hanging out in video arcades, pedophiles are increasingly staring into computer screens, using electronic mail and computer bulletin boards to meet children, authorities say.

"Pedophiles are like anyone else. They're becoming more high tech and using it to their advantage," said special agent Don Huycke of the U.S. Customs Service, which investigates international child pornography cases. "This whole information superhighway is wonderful, but it's loaded with dangers," said Police Chief Alfred O. Olsen of Warwick Township, Pa., a national specialist in computer crime. Last week, John Rex, 23, of Chelmsford, Mass., was indicted on charges he used a computer bulletin board to find children for sex. He is accused of raping two youths he met by exchanging messages through the bulletin board and of trying to recruit two teenagers to kidnap young boys for him. In Fresno, Calif., last year, Mark Forstson was convicted of sodomising a 16-year-old boy he had lured to his home after the two met on a computer network. William Steen, a 44-year-old computer expert, pleaded no contest last year to felony charges stemming from sending pornographic computer files to two 14-year-olds in Sacramento, Calif. No one yet keeps statistics on cases involving computer searches for child sex victims. Authorities say the problem isn't rampant, but it's likely to get worse.



## Former boxing champ to visit Jordan

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — As the Jordan Basketball Federation (JBF) prepares to commence its 1994 season, two momentous activities are expected to surely keep fans busy and rousing throughout the upcoming months.

The visit to Jordan of former world heavyweight boxing champion Muhammad Ali in mid-April will be the first activity in which the JBF will cooperate with the Jordan Sports Federation for the Handicapped (JSFH) and the Hussein Society for the Rehabilitation of the physically handicapped in organising a charity match between the Kingdom's top two teams Al Ahli and Al Orthodoni.

Mohammad Ali, scheduled to arrive in Amman April 17 at the invitation of His Majesty King Hussein, will attend the charity match which will be held under Royal patronage at the Sports Palace April 22.

The legendary champion, who will be accompanied by family members, will also tour the Kingdom's archaeological and tourist sites. An auction of some of his belongings will also be held to benefit both charities.

The organising committee has set ticket prices at JD 3, and all proceeds will go to the JSFH and the Hussein Society.

The visit is sponsored by Royal Jordanian, the Amman Marriott Hotel and Ahmad Isa Murad Co.

The other basketball event in the country will be the Arab-Radio and Television (ART) Championship, one of the biggest international basketball tournaments held in the country, bringing together a host of top Arab teams May 5-15.

Jordan Basketball Federation President Awwad Haddad, who heads the tournament's executive committee, said preparations were well on course for holding the tournament at the Sports Palace with a good number of teams from Arab countries, in addition to Jordan's Al Ahli and Al Orthodoni.

"This tournament will very much enhance the relations between various Arab federations and clubs. It will also serve Jordanian basketball and give a big boost to organisers, referees, players and fans," Mr. Awwad told the Jordan Times Monday.

The tournament will be en-



Mohammad Ali

tirely sponsored by the Dallah Group for Communications who are overseeing the initiation of ART's broadcast of their satellite sports channel from Amman in mid-June.

Mohammad Qadri Hassan, who is representing ART in the tournament's executive committee, told the Jordan Times that at least 10 teams had confirmed their participation: they are Al Ahli and Al Zamalek as well as Arab clubs' champions Al Jazireh from Egypt, Bahrain's Al Manamah, who are champions of the Gulf Cooperation Council, Lebanese league champions Al Riyadi and cup winners Al Hikmah, Qatar's Al Arabi and Qatar clubs and Al Ahli of the United Arab Emirates.

Mr. Hassan added that Syria's Al Inhiad and Al Wihdeh were also expected to participate, in addition to teams from Tunisia, Morocco and Saudi Arabia.

He also said that the championship, which is expected to cost ART over JD 100,000, would be seen all over the satellite channels and would also be covered on Jordan television.

During the tournament, Jordanian basketball superstar Murad Barakat, will officially retire from competitive basketball.

A special booklet is now being prepared for the occasion citing Barakat's long basketball career during which he represented Jordan in over 300 matches for the national as well as military teams and led Al Orthodoni during their undisputed domination of the basketball scene throughout the eighties, before losing it to all time-rivals Al Ahli in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

Following the ART tournament, Barakat, who is now head coach of Al Orthodoni, will travel to the U.S. for an advanced training course.

## NBA Drexler leads Blazers into playoffs

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (R) — Clyde Drexler scored 34 points, including three free throws in the final 28 seconds to lead the Portland Trail Blazers into the playoffs with a 109-105 victory over the New Jersey Nets on Sunday.

Rod Strickland added 18 points for Portland, which clinched a playoff berth by beating the Nets for the 15th time in 16 meetings.

Derrick Coleman had 29 points and Kenny Anderson added 25 and nine assists for the Nets, who have lost three of their last four games and dropped into the eighth and final playoff spot in the Eastern Conference battle for post-season berths.

New Jersey craved a 10-point fourth-quarter deficit on Kcody Anderson's 22-foot jumper with 42 seconds left that tied the game at 102-102.

Drexler broke the deadlock and put the Blazers ahead to stay by hitting two free throws with 28 seconds remaining.

Cooperative turnovers by the Nets enabled Portland to open a 107-102 lead on another foul shot by Drexler and a layup by Strickland.

Magic Johnson was reminded that there's no place like home as his Los Angeles Lakers crushed the Atlanta Hawks 102-89 at the great Western Forum to raise the former superstar's record to 4-1 as coach of his old team.

The Lakers have won 11 of their last 15 overall and a season-high six in a row at home.

Elden Campbell scored 17 points to lead a balanced attack for the Lakers, who kept alive their playoff hopes. They trail eighth-place Denver

by 3-1/2 games in the Western Conference with 12 games remaining.

Los Angeles led 50-43 at halftime and used an 11-1 tear to open a 66-48 lead with 5:43 left in the third quarter. They never led by less than 11 points in the fourth quarter.

Also in Los Angeles, Hakeem Olajuwon poured in 39 points to lead the Houston Rockets to a 106-98 win over the Clippers.

Dominique Wilkins scored 36 points and grabbed 11 rebounds to pace the Clippers, who have dropped five straight games.

Houston broke an 18-18 deadlock with a 10-0 run to end the first and begin the second quarter.

A Robert Horry dunk gave the Rockets their lead of the game at 56-34 with 57 seconds left in the first half.

Olajuwon, who scored 22 points in the first half, shot 17-of-28 from the field and added 11 rebounds and six blocks.

Otis Thorpe had 17 points and nine rebounds and Kenny Smith collected 14 points and seven assists for the Rockets.

In Phoenix, Kevin Johnson had a monster of a game as he was responsible for 76 points in a 108-98 win for the Suns over the Denver Nuggets.

Johnson scored 42 points and dished out 17 assists to lead the Phoenix to their fifth straight win, while Denver suffered its third setback in a row.

Johnson, who had 29 points in the first half, finished just two points shy of his career-best performance.

The Suns held Denver to just nine points in the third

quarter — one more than the Nuggets' all-time low.

The Nuggets used a 13-0 fourth-quarter run to make it close, but Johnson hit a layup for a six-point Suns lead with 44.4 seconds left. Cedric Ceballos scored the final four points for Phoenix.

At Detroit, Scottie Pippen led the Chicago Bulls to their first-ever season sweep of the Pistons with a 96-93 victory.

Pippen just missed a triple-double with 26 points, nine rebounds and nine assists. He scored 15 of his points in the second half as the Bulls won for the 10th time in 12 games.

The Pistons, who lost all five games to Chicago this season, had not been swept by a central division rival in 14 years.

A three-point jumper by Detroit's Terry Mills with three seconds left cut Chicago's lead to 94-93, but B.J. Armstrong nailed a pair of free throws to seal the win.

Armstrong and Horace Grant each scored 16 points, while Isiah Thomas led Detroit with 17 points.

In Philadelphia, Sherman Douglas scored 27 points and dished out a league season-high 22 assists as the Boston Celtics dealt the 76ers their franchise-record 11th straight home loss with a 135-112 thrashing.

Douglas led six Celtics to double figures with his season-high in points and career best for assists.

Dino Radja scored 25 points and Kevin Gamble scored 17 of his 19 in the fourth quarter for Boston.

The woeful 76ers have dropped 10 in a row and 25 of their last 26 games.



The Ivory Coast's Gael Tchieroua (7) during the African Nations Cup quarter-final match in Sousse, Tunisia (AFP photo) Odayley Lamptey (9) and Prince Foley

## Zambia realise dream but Ghana's hopes destroyed

SOUSSE, Tunisia (R) — Zambia's dream of a semifinal place at the African Nations Cup became reality on Sunday, but the hopes of Ghana Captain Abedi Pele were left in tatters.

Zambia, who said before the tournament their best hopes lay in reaching the semifinals, achieved that goal with a 1-0 win over Senegal at the Olympic stadium in Sousse.

But Ghana, one of the pre-tournament favourites, were beaten 2-1 by the Ivory Coast in a repeat of the 1992 final.

For Captain Abedi Pele, the only surviving member of Ghana's last winning side in 1982, hopes of a second gold medal 12 years on were ended in

bitterly cold conditions.

Abedi missed the 1992 final through suspension and, at the age of 31, was hoping for a last chance of glory.

But Ghana were stunned by an attacking Ivorian team who scored first in the 30th minute through Joel Tiehi, who had earlier missed a penalty.

Charles Akunnor revived Ghana's hopes by converting a long-range free-kick in the 77th minute but the Ivorians scored the winner just four minutes later through Abdoulaye Traore.

The match, watched by an enthusiastic crowd of locals and European holiday-makers in the seaside resort town, was

the best yet seen at the two-week tournament.

The Ivory Coast now play Nigeria in the first of the two semifinals in Tunis on Wednesday.

Earlier Zambia had secured their date with surprise package Mali in a scrappy match against Senegal.

Evans Sakala's 38th minute drive, another of the long-distance efforts that have characterised the tournament, was enough to ensure Zambia's progress.

Their youthful team has been built up in less than a year after the air disaster that killed 18 players last April.

## Martinez wins first title of year at Family Circle Cup

HILTON HEAD, South Carolina (R) — Second seed Conchita Martinez of Spain demonstrated her clay court prowess on Sunday by winning the 750,000 Family Circle Cup title with a decisive 6-4 6-0 victory over sixth seed Natalia Zvereva of Belarus.

The title was the first of the year for the third-ranked Martinez and the ninth of 17 career titles won on clay.

"It feels really good because I know it is such an important tournament and it is really important for me to win here," said Martinez, who earned \$150,000.

The match featured the last person to beat Steffi Graf in Martinez, who defeated the German star in Philadelphia final last November, against the only player to take a set from Graf this year.

## Sampras hot favourite for Japan Open

TOKYO (R) — World number one Pete Sampras, fresh from victory at last week's Seiem Open, becomes the favourite for the \$1.06 million Japan Open following the withdrawal of injured world number two Michael Stich.

Top-seeded Sampras of the United States will take to the courts on Tuesday in search of his sixth title of the season and the 26th of his career.

The 22-year-old defending champion, who has a five through to the second round, will also be looking to extend his winning streak of 16 straight matches.

Now that Stich is sidelined with a muscle injury, the main

obstacles in Sampras' path are second seed compatriot Michael Chang and third seed Boris Becker of Germany.

But none of these has been playing his best of late. Chang, immensely popular in Japan, crashed out at the hands of Swede Henrik Holm in the quarterfinals of last week's Seiem Open in Osaka.

Becker came to a more humiliating end, ousted in the first round by American Robbie Weiss, ranked 100 places below him.

Other seeds in action on Tuesday include veteran Ivan Lendl, a winner here 14 years ago, Aaron Krickstein, Brad Gilbert, all of the United

States, and Amos Mansdorf of Israel.

Seeds in action on Monday on the sun-drenched hard courts at the Ariake Coliseum included 10th seed Patrick McEnroe of the United States and the 11th seeded Holm.

In the first round, Jonas Bjorkman of Sweden trounced Toshitsugu Mory of Japan 6-1, 6-3, Robbie Weiss heat Maurice Ruah of Venezuela 6-4, 6-1 and qualifier Michael Tebbutt of Australia outplayed Jan Siemerink of the Netherlands 6-4, 6-4.

Two seeds crashed out on the first day. Number 14 Jamie Morgan of Australia lost 3-6

7-6 6-4 to American qualifier Lou Gloria and Javier Frana of Argentina, 15, was trounced 6-2 6-0 by Australian Darren Cahill.

Tenth seed Patrick McEnroe of the United States was taken to a first set debar by Italian Omar Camporese before winning 7-6 6-2.

McEnroe, the highest men's seed in action Monday, put in 73 per cent of his first serves.

Camporese hit on 53 per cent, but blasted 10 service aces to two by McEnroe in the one-hour, 28-minute match.

The Italian broke serve in the fifth game of the first set and McEnroe broke back to the eighth.

### GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF  
& TAMAR HIRSCH  
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#### WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A J 10 5 2 7 3 ♠A Q 10 9 6 2  
What is your opening bid?

Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠A 3 ♠A Q J 5 ♠A J 10 9 6  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 2 ♠ Pass  
2 ♥ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.3—East-West vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A ♠A Q 8 7 6 ♠A 10 5 4 2  
The bidding has proceeded:  
North East South West  
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♥ Pass  
1 ♠ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.4—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A 3 ♠A Q 9 7 3 ♠A Q 8 7 2 ♠A 6  
The bidding has proceeded:  
East South West North  
3 ♥ 4 ♠ Pass 4 ♥ Pass ?  
What do you bid now?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:  
♠Q 10 6 4 2 ♠A Q 8 3 ♠A 7 3 2  
Partner opens the bidding with a game-forcing bid of two spades. What do you respond?

Q.6—Both vulnerable, as South you hold:  
♠A Q J 10 5 ♠A 4 3 ♠A 8 2  
Partner opens the bidding with one heart. What do you respond?

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PHILADELPHIA		PLAZA		CONCORD		AMMOUN THEATRE		Nabil Al Mashini Theatre	AHLAN THEATRE
DEAD AGAIN	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Olivier Gruner IN NEMESIS	Shows: 12:30, 3:15, 5, 6:30, 8:30, 10:30	CONCORD '1' Hook CONCORD '2' Demolition Man	Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Opening Soon A political comedy Forbidden X Forbidden	Watch for the surprise — The next play...	The theatre reopens Wednesday April 6 To present the last two weeks of a play: "Ahlam (welcome) Arab Summit Conference" The theatre is closed Saturdays and Sundays	



## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Illness delays U.N. Afghan mission

KABUL (R) — A U.N. peace mission in Afghanistan postponed an important meeting on Monday when its leader, former Tunisian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Mestiri, fell ill in the war-shattered capital, Kabul. Mr. Mestiri arrived in Kabul on Sunday and held talks with president Burhanuddin Rabbani and his arch-rival, Prime Minister Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, who launched his latest battle to topple the president on Jan. 1. Both Mr. Rabbani and Mr. Hekmatyar told the U.N. envoy they wanted peace but neither showed any sign of shifting from their long-held positions. Mr. Hekmatyar is demanding Mr. Rabbani's resignation while Mr. Rabbani says he has no plans to step down. Mr. Mestiri was due on Monday to meet former Defence Minister and veteran Mujahideen leader Ahmad Shah Masoud, who leads the president's troops and is believed to be the power that has enabled Mr. Rabbani to retain his post. The meeting was delayed after Mr. Mestiri fell ill. The mission was due to return to Pakistan on Tuesday.

## Four killed in clashes in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed three suspected extremists in clashes Monday in Cairo and southern Egypt and a fourth died in an exchange of fire with armed civilians, police said. In both cases, police said the militants fired first but no casualties were reported among civilians or police officers. According to police, three extremists fired on villagers who spotted the radicals hiding in a field at Al Abhada near Manfalout, 300 kilometres south of Cairo. The villagers fired back and injured one of the radicals, who later died. Police then arrived and gave chase, killing the other two extremists in an exchange of fire, police said. In Cairo, one suspected extremist was shot dead and another arrested, police said. They said the two extremists started shooting because they suspected police were following them, and police returned fire.

## Disney president killed in crash

BURBANK, California (AP) — Frank Wells, the behind-the-scenes executive who helped propel the Walt Disney Co. to spectacular success with films such as "Pretty Woman," "Sister Act" and the animated "Aladdin," is dead. He was 62. Wells, Disney's president and chief operating officer, was killed Sunday when the helicopter he was riding crashed into a mountain during a skiing expedition in central Nevada, said Elko County Sheriff Neil Harris. "There are no words to express my shock and sense of loss," said Michael Eisner, Disney's chief executive officer, said in a statement. "Frank Wells has been the purest definition of a 'life force' I have ever known. His wisdom, his charm, his zest for experience and challenge, his naked and awesome intelligence, set him apart and beyond. The world has lost a great human being."

## China jails Hong Kong reporter

BEIJING (R) — China, signalling its determination to keep control of information, has jailed a Hong Kong reporter for 12 years and a clerk at the central bank for 15 years for spying and stealing financial secrets. A spokeswoman for the Beijing intermediate court said on Monday that Xi Yang, a China-born reporter for the Hong Kong daily Ming Pao, and Tian Ye, a clerk at the People's Bank of China, had both been found guilty last week. Mr. Xi was sentenced to 12 years in prison and an additional two years deprivation of political rights for "stealing and spying on state secrets." Mr. Tian was jailed for 15 years and had his political rights removed for a further three years for helping foreigners steal and spy, and for illegally providing information about state secrets. Mr. Xi would appeal against sentence but Mr. Tian would not, the spokeswoman said.

## 7 SLA men wounded in Hizbollah attack

MARJAYOUN (AP) — A roadside bomb Monday wounded seven militiamen of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) in an Israeli-controlled border strip, security sources said. At least three of the wounded were in critical condition at a Tel Aviv hospital after the 4 p.m. (1400 GMT) attack on the village of Talloussa in the central sector of an Israeli-occupied "security zone," the sources said.

## 3 dead in Dutch plane crash

AMSTERDAM (R) — Three people were killed and 13 seriously hurt when a KLM Royal Dutch Airlines plane carrying 21 passengers and three crew crashed near Amsterdam's Schiphol airport on Monday, a KLM spokesman said. The twin Turbo-prop aircraft, flying from Schiphol to Cardiff in Wales on Cityhopper Flight KL 433, crashed about 3 p.m. (1300 GMT) as it tried to land after developing engine trouble over the North Sea shortly after take-off. The plane, a Swedish-built Saab 340B, came down close to a motorway linking Amsterdam and the Hague.

## Iran renews support for Palestinian radicals

DAMASCUS (R) — A senior Iranian official on Monday reiterated Iran's backing for a 10-member Palestinian alliance which has vowed to foil a peace deal between Israel and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Palestinian sources said. They said Hassan Rowhani, deputy speaker of Iran's parliament, made the pledge during talks with leaders of the alliance at the Iranian embassy in Damascus. "The meeting dealt with the mechanism needed to continue support for the Palestinian uprising and the 10-member alliance," one official said. "Rowhani affirmed Iran's continued support for the uprising in the Israeli-occupied territories and its rejection of the peace deals signed by the PLO and Israel," the official said. Mr. Rowhani, leading a parliamentary delegation, told reporters on arrival in Damascus on Sunday that he was carrying messages for Syrian President Hafez Al Assad from Iran's supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Iranian President Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani. He gave no details.

## Iranian official hints at crackdown

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's interior minister Monday warned of harsh punishment for anyone transgressing the country's Islamic laws, arguing a renewed crackdown on dissent. Tehran Radio quoted Ali Mohammad Besharati as saying that the security forces would confront "social vice and the west's cultural onslaught." Mr. Besharati told a news conference in Tehran that more than ever "the security forces will carry out their duties against violators of the laws and regulations, and will confront them severely." The government, facing a string of social and economic problems, has intensified security measures in recent months and Mr. Besharati has been given unprecedented powers to crackdown on opponents.

## PLO foreign affairs chief visits Vietnam

HANOI (R) — The foreign affairs chief of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), Farouk Kaddoumi, arrived in Hanoi on Monday on an official visit to a long-time PLO supporter. Mr. Kaddoumi was due to hold talks with Vietnam's Foreign Minister Nguyen Manh Gam, who welcomed him upon his arrival, and meet President Le Duc Anh and party chief Do Muoi on Tuesday.

## Texas executes man for 1986 slaying

HUNTSVILLE, Texas (R) — A man convicted of kidnapping and murdering a Houston restaurant manager and raping the manager's wife in 1986 was put to death early Monday by lethal injection after volunteering to be executed. Richard Les Beavers, 38, was pronounced dead at 12:25 a.m. CDT (1:29 EDT) (0525 GMT), about eight minutes after state officials began the flow of lethal drugs into tubes attached to his arms inside a state prison about 130 kilometres north of Houston, state officials said.

## Wind change steers oil slick away from UAE

DUBAI (R) — A change in wind direction is steering a massive oil slick from a tanker collision away from main fishing ports and scenic beaches on the Arabian Sea, anti-pollution crew said on Monday.

An official in a company battling the 16,000-tonne spill that has already washed up on some beaches and affected marine life said the wind had changed course, pushing it about three kilometres from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) fishing port of Dibba.

Skimmers were working around the clock to mop up the oil at sea since the two tankers collided on Wednesday, he said. "This is the worst in the region after the Gulf war," said Michael Sarros of Fairdeal, a Greek-owned company leading the operation. "I'm six miles off Dibba and the wind, Thank God, is blowing from the shore to the sea pushing the spill to the skimmers. Weather is helping," said Captain Yari Kaimenakis, operations manager at Fairdeal, from a ship off Dibba.

"I have three skimmers with me, a storage vessel and three booms trying to contain the spill," he added.

Although the scale of the latest spill is tiny compared with perhaps one million tonnes that poured into the Gulf during the Gulf war, experts said that it was the largest in the area to result from a tanker accident.

Of the world's major tanker accidents, the most recent include the Braer which lost 85,000 tonnes of crude oil when it ran aground off the Shetlands in 1993 and the Exxon Valdez which in 1989 spilled 40,000 tonnes of oil into Alaskan waters.

The Panamanian-flagged supertanker Seki, built in 1993, spilled the crude 16 kilometres off the UAE's port of Fujairah, just outside the Gulf, after it collided with the UAE

tanker Baynunah which was in ballast.

During the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war both sides attacked oil tankers in the region and caused spills but Mr. Sarros said the Seki accident was much larger.

Skimmers and temporary storage vessels have so far collected around 2,200 tonnes of crude from the sea in an operation which is expected to take much longer than earlier anticipated.

"The effects could have been far worse if it was not for relatively favourable weather to an extent so far, and the quick response, anti-pollution crew were at the scene of the accident within two hours," Mr. Sarros said.

"God only knows how long it will take. It all depends on sea currents and the weather," said Capt. Kaimenakis. "At first we thought the spill was between 7,000 and 8,000 tonnes. Now we know it is double that."

In Abu Dhabi, a cabinet meeting discussed the environmental disaster and agreed to allocate "immediate funds" to fight the spill, the Emirates News Agency said without giving figures.

Mr. Sarros said the oil has washed ashore affecting between 20 and 25 kilometres of the UAE's Arabian Sea coastline, a popular holiday spot famous also for rich coral reefs and colourful marine life.

The UAE emirate of Fujairah has said the oil slick had severely polluted several beaches and is threatening more than 40 kilometres of coastline.

Officials say the disaster could have been much worse if the oil spilled had been heavy, like much of the crude produced in the Gulf. The cargo which is lapping the Arabian Sea beaches is of Iranian light crude oil originally destined for Japan. The 57,211-tonne Baynunah was returning home from Japan.

## Assad pays surprise visit for talks with Mubarak

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syrian President Hafez Al Assad Monday held talks with President Hosni Mubarak on the stalled peace negotiations between Israel and frontline Arab countries.

Mr. Mubarak received Mr. Assad at Cairo international airport, and the two leaders began talks after a welcoming ceremony at Al Qubah presidential palace. Mr. Assad was accompanied by vice-president Abdul Halim Khaddam and Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa.

The government-owned Middle East News Agency (MENA) said the two presidents would discuss the Middle East peace process and bilateral relations. It gave no details. The talks were apparently prompted by Syria's dissatisfaction with Egyptian support for Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace negotiations.

Mr. Assad is unhappy about Cairo's support for a process he sees as a blow to coordination between Arab countries negotiating with Israel, diplomats said.

Mr. Assad's visit was not announced in advance and it was unclear which side initiated it.

"Syria feels the (Israel-PLO) deals have severely harmed Arabs because... they satisfied Israeli demands at the expense

of the Palestinians," said a diplomat in the region.

"Syria also feels that... the deals meant abandoning the badly needed coordination between Arabs," he said.

While some progress is being made on the Palestinian front, separate talks between Syria and Israel have made virtually no progress in 2-1/2 years because of disagreement over the Golan Heights.

Mr. Assad is said to be looking to Egypt to persuade the United States to put pressure on Israel on the Golan.

"Syria wants Egyptian efforts to have Washington exert more pressure on Israel to force her to announce its readiness to withdraw fully from the Golan so progress can be made at the next round of talks due to resume in Washington at the end of this month," the Arab diplomat told Reuters.

Mr. Assad last came to Egypt in September shortly after the PLO signed the self-rule agreement with Israel, the PLO issue aside, relations between Egypt and Syria are good.

The Egyptian team in the talks with Syria included Prime Minister Atef Sedki, Foreign Minister Amr Musa, Defence Minister Field Marshal Mohammad Tantawi and Information Minister Safwat Al Sharif.

## Teenager in last appeal on Singapore caning

SINGAPORE (R) — An American teenager sentenced to caning and imprisonment in Singapore for vandalism will appeal to President Ong Teng Cheong for clemency this week, his lawyer said on Monday.

Lawyer Dominic Nagulendran said Michael Peter Fay's stepfather and mother also plan to appeal to Ong for clemency, citing their son's mental health.

Caning was likely to be carried out within a few days if the president rejects the appeal, Nagulendran said.

Fay, 18, was sentenced to six strokes of the cane, four months in jail and \$3,500 Singapore dollar (\$2,000 for spray-painting cars. U.S. President Bill Clinton has called the sentence extreme but the U.S. government says it will not intervene.

Chief Justice Yong Pung How rejected Fay's appeal against the sentence on Thursday, saying the youth had committed at least 16 acts of van-

dalism over 10 days.

Caning was criticised in a U.S. State Department human-rights report last year, but Singapore defends it as needed to stop the country from becoming crime-ridden like New York.

According to government figures, 12 Singaporeans and two foreigners aged 18 to 21 have been caned for vandalism since 1989. Offenders are normally permanently scarred.

Fay's father, George, told Reuters in the United States on Sunday he would seek to have the international committee of the Red Cross attend his son's caning to document what he called "a case of torture."

A prisons department official said caning was carried out by a prison officer with a doctor and the prison superintendent present. He declined comment on whether the government would allow anyone else to be present.



NO-ONE IS SPARED: A Palestinian woman following a stone-throwing protest on Monday in Jericho in the occupied West Bank (AFP photo) brother whom the soldier wants to arrest

## Tehran hits back at GCC over Gulf islands and Haj quotas

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Iran Monday denounced the Gulf Cooperation Council for backing the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia in their respective disputes with Tehran over territory and pilgrimage quotas.

An Iranian Foreign Ministry statement said a GCC statement issued Sunday in Riyadh supporting the two Arab states would contribute only to "the creation of discord among Muslims."

Tehran Radio, monitored in Nicosia, quoted the Iranian statement as saying the three Gulf islands at the centre of its dispute with the UAE belong to Iran.

"Repetition of groundless claims about the three islands belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran will not change anything."

The statement accused the Saudi-led GCC of taking "another step towards guaranteeing the interests of alien powers in the sensitive and strategic Persian Gulf."

However, the statement welcomed the GCC's call for talks to solve the dispute.

Iran laid claim to the island of Abu Musa, strategically placed at the mouth of the Gulf, in September 1992, fol-

lowing 20 years of joint control with the UAE.

Iran seized the islands of Greater Tunb and Lesser Tunb from the UAE in 1971.

The GCC closed a two-day meeting Sunday by saying it "renewed its firm stance in upholding and supporting the UAE and affirming its sovereignty over the three islands."

Tehran Radio said that by condemning Iran the GCC had displayed its lack of impartiality, and was therefore unfit to solve any regional disputes.

Until the GCC "is not impartial on regional issues it cannot help in any kind of political efforts for a solution," the radio said.

The GCC groups Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, Oman and the UAE in a 12-year economic and security alliance that coordinates on foreign policy.

The Foreign Ministry statement said Iran "urges Saudi officials to facilitate the performance of this important divine obligation instead of breaking pledges and creating obstacles for Muslims wishing to go to Haj."

The GCC foreign ministers had voiced "full and absolute" support for Riyadh's efforts to

control the number of pilgrims during the annual Haj in May and condemned recent Iranian press attacks on the kingdom.

Tehran says Riyadh wants to halve the number of Iranian pilgrims to about 60,000, in line with a country quota agreed by Muslim countries in 1988 to avoid congestion during renovation in Mecca and Medina.

Iran has sent about 115,000 pilgrims to Haj each year since 1991, when it resumed diplomatic relations with Saudi Arabia and ended a three-year boycott of Haj after riots in Mecca in 1987 in which 402 people, mostly Iranians, were killed.

Saudi officials say a larger number of Iranian pilgrims may have been allowed in the past three years to accommodate Iranians who were unable to perform the pilgrimage during the boycott years but this exception was no longer necessary.

The Iranian statement, however, said the Saudis were bound by the 1991 agreement on the number of pilgrims and the right of Iran to hold political rallies during Haj because it was made after the quotas were set.

## Rival claims shroud University of Jordan student elections

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Islamists and nationalists at the University of Jordan are divided over the result of the last week's students council elections. Islamists believe that the number of seats they obtained in Wednesday's elections amount to 64, but nationalists insist they won 23 and that the Islamists were only able to secure 57 seats of the council's 80 seats.

"Islamists were running on group lists in all of the university's faculties so there could not be any error in our calculations," one Islamist observer said. "The 64 Islamist winners were nominated by the Islamic bloc to run for the elections and their names appeared on their lists."

The observer asserted that the nationalists, known as Al Watan Bloc, were spreading rumours shortly before the elections that they have nearly secured 40 seats in order to "make students believe that the Islamist bloc is regressing," he said.

The nationalists, on the other hand, believe that there has been more organisation this year than before pointing to the increase in competition and their sweeping victory at the Faculty of Law, where they won the five allotted seats.

While Islamists claim to have won all of the 12 seats at the Faculty of Arts and Literature, the nationalists insist that they secured two for themselves. Nationalists also claim to have won one out of the 11 seats at the Faculty of Education, one of the five seats at the Faculty of Agriculture and one of the nine seats at the Faculty of Engineering while Islamists claim full control of all three faculties. At the Faculty of Business Administration, Islamists said they secured six out of the 11 seats while nationalists said they controlled eight seats.

And while nationalists insist on their analysis, they further hint that they retain a number of seats that will remain "undeclared."

"What is hidden is still

## Islamists win in Muta polls

ISLAMISTS won 44 seats out of the 56 seats in the student council of Muta University in Sunday's elections, which covered six civilian faculties in addition to evening and higher studies students, the Arabic daily Al Rai said.

A total of 115 candidates ran for the student body.

"more," one of them said. The Islamists had completely dismissed the nationalists' analysis and described it as "impossible."

They said that the Al Watan Bloc that emerged last year as one unified bloc had failed completely. In last year's election, the nationalists, known among students at the time as the Nationalist Jordanian Coalition Bloc, were projected to win 40 seats, but captured three. The Islamists secured 71 seats.

"(The nationalist trend) died completely," one Islamist told the Jordan Times. "They ran as blocs in three different faculties and were not able to secure any seat."

The Islamist further explained that after their "total" failure in last year's election, the nationalists changed their strategies this time and shifted to creating unified blocs under different names and different slogans like the Free Opinion Bloc, for example.

"They even formed a nationalist bloc under an Islamist motto," the Islamist said, pointing to the Islamic Reform Bloc which fielded candidates at the Faculty of Education. "But again, they completely failed."

"It is clear that they are not accepted as a political group since they (the nationalist bloc) do not rely on any political or ideological platform," the Islamist claimed.

"They would back up any student for his tribal background regardless of his affiliation... sometimes, they would support an Islamist."

"The Islamists, on the other hand, have a clear and

unified programme," he added. "Their objectives are known to everyone and can be mainly reflected in their rejectionist stand vis-a-vis the Arab-Israeli peace talks and their pursuit of public freedoms."

In 1993, the Islamist-dominated students council organised demonstrations within the university's campus to protest the university administration's way of dealing with the council's representatives and the way in which they ignored their demands, mainly for an independent budget for the council.

The Islamist source, however, agreed that there were feelings among Islamists themselves, mostly between extremists and moderates. The extremists, he said, mostly women, had first appeared at the Faculty of Sharia. According to student sources, three female students belonging to this trend insisted on running for elections this year. One at the Faculty of Sharia withdrew after "enormous pressures" by her colleagues (from the extremists trend) and by her parents.

This year's elections witnessed a decrease in the number of female students who were able to make it to the council, falling from 15 in last year's elections to 13 this year, 11 of whom were Islamists.

Independents, the Islamists and nationalists sought the support of one of the two main camps. Leftists were not able to score any tangible results in the three-year-old council's life.

Dean of students affairs at the University of Jordan Mohammad Khreisat told the Jordan Times that he was happy with the outcome since there was more student participation this year. He said there was a five per cent increase in turnout from 60 per cent in 1993. The dean, who did not acknowledge that students ran in coalitions, however, said he noted "an increasing competition among the students of different affiliations... that is promising."

## COLUMN

## Protester disrupts Clinton's church service

WASHINGTON (AP) — An AIDS protester shouting from the balcony disrupted Easter Sunday church services, attended by President Bill Clinton, his wife and daughter. Two Secret Service agents sitting in a pew directly behind the Clintons jumped to their feet and shielded the couple after a man yelled, "save your prayers for Bill Clinton." The disruption occurred about midway through the service at the Foundry United Methodist Church, breaking the silence immediately following a reading from the New Testament. Mr. Clinton later said he was not bothered by the disruption. The same protester interrupted a Clinton speech in December, prompting the president to say then, "I'd rather that man be in here screaming at me than having given up altogether."

The AIDS protester, whom the Secret Service identified as Luke Sissifag, also shouted, "Where's the Manhattan Project... for AIDS?" referring to Mr. Clinton's campaign promise to mount a federal AIDS programme of that magnitude. "Bill Clinton lied," Mr. Sissifag, who was with another man who was not identified, was led out of the church by parishioners. Secret Service spokesman Dave Adams said Mr. Sissifag agreed to go to the agency's offices for questioning and would not be detained. No threats were made against the president, Mr. Adams said.

The disturbance lasted only 10 to 15 seconds. Immediately afterwards, the minister, the Rev. J. Philip Wogaman, said, "Let us pray for this young man," and continued the service. The Clintons were spending Easter in Washington, ending a 10 day vacation, most of which was spent in southern California. The president was heading off again Monday on a five-day, six-state trip.

## Hanoi reinforces ban on trade in wild animals

HANOI (R) — Vietnam's Forestry Ministry has reinforced a ban on trading in the country's threatened wildlife, reminding local authorities to clamp down on hunters, government officials said. The new measure telling provincial officials to implement the ban issued last year was necessary because Vietnam was about to join the Convention for the International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES), they said. "Now that Vietnam is formally to become a CITES member on April 20, we have to abide by its regulations... we plan to apply some stronger measures (to protect wildlife) in the period to come," one official said. He declined to give more details. The official said the Forestry Ministry had recently required local authorities to ban production and sale of wildlife meats and products such as skins, stuffed animals and ivory. The officials said that despite a government ban last year on killing and dealing in rare wild animals, illegal trade in wildlife remained widespread. Experts say a range of wild animals is threatened, including tigers, elephants, leopards and sea turtles. Traders have long plundered the jungles for animals to sell as pets, for food or as ingredients in traditional medicines. Trade has boomed since the border with China was opened in 1989. Animal numbers were also depleted during virtually constant warfare in Vietnam from the late 1930s to the mid-1970s.

## 'Miracle' statue weeps tears of blood

VERONA, Italy (R) — An Italian faith healer has made himself famous for Easter with claims that a statue of the Virgin Mary in his garden cries tears of blood. A steady stream of the devout and the curious Sunday visited the house of Bruno Burato on the shores of Lake Garda, northern Italy, for a look at the purported "miracle statue." Mr. Burato can also expect a call from forensic scientists from the University of Verona who have been told to test the blood to determine whether it is human. Mr. Burato, one of Italy's many self-styled clairvoyants, says he bought the statue in Fatima in Portugal, where the mother of Jesus Christ is said to have appeared to three children in 1917.